

who, like civil engineers or surveyors, know what it is to camp out and examine a country in detail.

It is a matter of much financial importance, as the losses occurring every year by forest fires are immense. Canada has about twenty million acres of timber, and yearly one million or more are devastated by fire in different parts of the Dominion. In Assinibolia alone in the year 1897 over three hundred thousand acres were swept over. Some time ago the Dickinson limit, about 150 miles northwest of Yorkton, comprising some 100,000 acres, was burnt, destroying about 75,000 acres. This is only a drop in the bucket. Take an acre of timber which will furnish say 2,000 trees, from six inches to twelve inches in diameter. Each tree is worth for timber, an average of \$3, making \$6,000 an acre, and if 75,000 acres were burnt on that limit it was a loss of \$450,000. So much out of Assinibolia's capital for thirty or forty years, or until a new growth can be made. This is only one instance. Can we afford to lose by negligence every ten years enough of our nation's capital to pay for a war or to buy a navy? Yet such a task might come upon us some day, and why waste in indolence our God-given patrimony? Nature has been profuse. Shall we burn up her bounty, or try to conserve it for the future?

Fire, the axe, and wholesale vandalism have held sway over our forests, threatening their utter destruction. But now at this darkest time a light of a better day begins to dawn. Railroads carrying everywhere our rapidly increasing population have rendered every tree accessible to the axe and fire. At last the Government has taken alarm, and seems ready to adopt measures to stay wanton wastefulness and save our noble forests. Knowledge is gaining ground in the minds of the people that the forests are at once the most valuable and the most destructible part of the nation's national wealth, and that they must not be left as heretofore to the mercy of every wandering hunter, sheep-herder or woodsman. The people are beginning to realize that the forests affect the climate and hold in store fertilizing rains and snows and form fountains for irrigating streams. Gold and silver are stored in the rocks, and can neither be burned nor trampled out of existence. The wealth of our fertile prairies and their productive soil are also comparatively safe. But our forests, the best on the face of the earth, are still exposed to the perils which have inflicted calamities upon many other countries, which by wasteful and heedless courses have lost their productiveness, and have thereby known famine, drought and sometimes pestilence. With the control of a competent corps of forest guardians our forests will be preserved and also used. The experience of all civilized countries that have faced and solved the problem, shows that over and above all expenses of management under trained officers, the forests, like perennial fountains, may be made to yield a sure harvest of timber, while at the same time all their far-reaching beneficent uses may be maintained unimpaired. Let every newspaper, every professional man, every merchant, every farmer, join hands in this momentous issue, and urge upon the Government to establish a safeguard for one of our greatest and most valuable assets.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Forestry Association was held at Ottawa on the 7th of December, the principal business being the arrangements for the second annual meeting which will be held in Ottawa on the 7th March, 1901. Those present were Professor John Macoun, Mr. Hiram Robinson, William Pearce, E. Stewart and R. H. Campbell. The Secretary stated that the reports of the first

annual meeting, of which three thousand copies had been printed through the kindness of the Government, had been distributed in every part of Canada, and with them had been sent a circular calling attention to the work of the Association and asking the support of the recipients. A special additional circular had since been sent out to lumbermen and others, with the result that the membership stands at 139 (now 174). The Treasurer reported a balance of \$140 to the credit of the Association. The arrangements for the annual meeting were then discussed, and it was decided that it was desirable to have the forestry interests of every part of the Dominion brought before the Association on that occasion by the reading of papers or otherwise, and the Secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps to that end. Mr. Stewart informed the Committee that he expected that some of the leading members of the American Forestry Association would attend this meeting, and it was suggested that as he would have an opportunity of seeing these gentlemen at the annual meeting of that Association in Washington, he might be able to arrange for an evening lecture by one of them. An illustrated lecture on forestry of this nature would be, not only interesting, but very instructive to the members of the Canadian Association. Mr. Stewart also stated that it was his intention to hold a number of meetings in the West in the early part of the year to bring the question of tree planting before the settlers, the object being to arrange for some method of co-operation, so that the Government may assist the settlers in their efforts in this direction. These meetings should be of the greatest advantage to the West, and they will also be very helpful to the interests of the Forestry Association. Mr. Southworth is also arranging with the Canadian Institute that the meeting of the Institute to be held at Toronto on the 12th of January should be devoted to forestry. The Committee were of the opinion that a more active effort should be made during the coming year to bring the Association before the public, and that it would be advisable to arrange for meetings to be held at important cities in order to arouse as great an interest as possible in the subject of forestry. Professor Macoun emphasized very strongly the necessity for making the work of the Association as practical as possible, and condemned any effort to desert the experience of the past and the natural materials at hand for experimentation with things new and untried, especially in tree planting.

The annual meeting of the American Forestry Association was held at Washington the 15th December, and was presided over by Dr. B. E. Fernow, Dean of the New York State College of Forestry, and Vice-President of the Association. First on the programme was the reading of the report of the board of directors, which was accepted by the association. It showed that during the year popular interest in forestry had grown remarkably, and the condition of the country's forests have improved greatly.

Secretary Wilson, of the Agricultural Department, who is president of the association, delivered a brief address, welcoming the delegates to Washington. Subjects relating to tree planting, the conservation, management, and renewal of forests, and the climatic and other influences that affect their welfare were brought up, and measures for the advancement of educational and legislative plans were considered.

Officers were elected as follows: Hon. James H. Wilson, president; F. H. Newell, corresponding secretary; and George P. Whittlesey, recording secretary and treasurer.