

much the fault of the forester as that of the lumberman, and arose from a misunderstanding, the lumberman having the impression that the forester, if he had his way, would prejudicially interfere with his operations, and the forester blaming the lumberman for destroying the forests.

Now it is scarcely necessary to say that no intelligent forester would be so unwise as to prevent the utilization of full grown timber. His mission is rather to use his influence in such a way that a permanent production may be constantly maintained. But nothing serves so well to unite people as a common enemy, and that was not wanting in this case. The ubiquitous forest fire, to which I have already referred, and which I believe has destroyed in Canada, ten times as much timber as the lumberman has ever cut, furnished the rallying point. So alarming was this destruction in every Province, that every citizen, worthy of the name, became interested, and the authorities were urged to adopt a protective service. Never was a more reasonable request made. The public, in most cases, are the owners of the timber, it being principally on unsettled lands still held by the Crown, and even where timber berths have been sold to individuals, the Government still receives a royalty on the cut. It was pointed out that no city or town would think of doing without a fire service for the protection of buildings, which if burnt, could be rebuilt within a year or so, whereas, if a forest is destroyed it takes a century to replace it. In this movement for protection the lumberman became a forester. Again with the permanent tenure of timber berths, the intelligent lumberman is not satisfied to ignore the growth of young timber that is coming on to take the place of what he has removed, and the day has now arrived when I believe very many of our lumbermen are beginning to so work their limits that the ground, which has for ages been producing timber, one crop succeeding another, may continue to afford him a continuous supply.

We should not forget that the most reliable statistics show that the world's supply of timber is fast diminishing, while the demand is enormously increasing. Time will not permit me to quote the opinions of many of the best authorities in the world, backed by statistics on this point. I will only, however, trespass on your time to quote from an article which appears in the last July number of the "Nineteenth Century," written by Dr. John Nisbet, (late of the India Forest Service), on timber planting on waste lands in the British Isles, in which, after referring to the fact that Great Britain had heretofore been able to supply her timber through the enormous shipping facilities at her command, goes on to say that "the whole economic position has been entirely changed within the last thirty-five years, and the future outlook has, of course, thereby become profoundly affected.