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### IMPORTANCE OF FORESTRY.

Last week there was held in Washington, D.C., an important congress of those interested in the live and growing question of forestry. Some four hundred delegates are present at this congress: they are from all over the United States and Canada. These are not only forestry educators and Government officials, but, some of them, heads of large lumber companies, heads of wool growers' and live stock associations, presidents of railroads. The presence of such men shows what an advance has been made in the public appreciation of this subject. In the annual report of the American Forestry Association great credit was given to the progress made by Canada in forestry and scientific lumbering. The statement that more than three million young trees had been planted on the western prairies was received with particular applause. Mr. Aubrey White, Assistant Commissioner of Crown Lands for Ontario, was introduced as a representative of "Our sister nation to the north," and gave an address on the methods of fire protection used in Ontario. Referring to the sale of timber limits, he showed how far Ontario was ahead of the United States, where the old "timber and stone law" was still in force. Under this law the Government sells the timber lands at a fixed rate of two dollars and a half per acre, and loses the title to the land. The Ontario method is better, for here licenses are granted for the cutting of timber off Crown lands. These licenses are obtained by competitive bidding at public auction. Furthermore, the Province gets a royalty of one or two dollars for every thousand feet cut. Fire rangers are placed on all licensed lands, half the expense paid by the licensee, and half by the Government. "Without being egotistical," he declared, "I may say that the United States have copied our system of fire ranging."

In the fifth annual report of the Canadian Forestry Association which was held in Toronto last

March, we find some very suggestive thoughts on this subject. As the chairman, Mr. Hiram Robinson, said in the course of his remarks, there is nothing that the people of Canada should think more of than securing for themselves that great heritage of Canadians which consists in their forests. The great object of associations of this nature is not merely reforestry, but that perhaps greater matter, the taking care of the forests we already have, and assisting nature in her work; allowing the seedlings to come up and take the place of the older trees, and using every care possible in this respect.

Many of the papers read at the association's meeting are well worthy of being read and digested, not only by those having a direct interest in the subject, but by every Canadian citizen. For example, referring to the value of forestry from a merely dollars and cents point of view, we may cite the address of Dr. A. Harold Unwin, who spoke of conditions in Germany, where perhaps more progress has been made in scientific forestry than in any other country.

Calling the growing trees in a forest the forest capital, what they take is only the interest or what actually grows each year in wood, and with increased care and better management that capital has been increased in recent years from 26,040 feet board measure to 31,800 feet board measure per acre, and the interest taken greater still in proportion as timber prices have risen. At the present time spruce pays at about 4 per cent. on the capital represented when grown pure under a rotation of 90 years. This is on medium mountain soil in the Bavarian Alps. Fifty years ago these forests had just begun to be used to their full capacity, and before that they had scarcely been touched, being comparatively inaccessible.

The following extract from a speech by the lamented John Bertram will be of interest, as reflecting the views of an unbiased expert upon one point of the present Ontario Government's policy:

"The policy pursued by the Department of Crown Lands in selling only the white and red pine on licensed lands is