

be shown to be farm soil. Aside from the somewhat doubtful method, by which this percentage is determined, there is, from the standpoint of a proper forest policy, an important point overlooked, namely, the propriety of making a difference in the exploitation of the timber on these two parts. It is evident that on those portions which are destined to eventually become farms, the timber may be cut without any reference to the future, while on those portions which are destined to remain in forest, the policy should be to direct the cutting in such a way as to insure the persistence *i.e.*, the reproduction of the valuable forest growth, especially by keeping the fire out.

And here we come to our third and most fundamental want, efficient protection against forest fires without which all other propositions and the practice of forestry are futile.

This requirement, to be sure, is generally recognized as self-evident not less by the governments than by all citizens, except the ignorant, careless and criminally irresponsible ones.

But, although, governments have undertaken to check this greatest evil, the extent of which may be properly made a measure of the civilization of a community, we cannot but think that they have done so without adequate conception of the difficulty or importance of the undertaking, nor indeed in the attitude which we have outlined, of regard for the future. This lack of proper attitude is most characteristically exhibited by the report of what an official in charge is said to have remarked regarding the forest fires of the past season, namely, that they had done no damage for they had mainly run through slash. It is here that the future lies! The old timber is mostly not damaged beyond usefulness by any single fire, but the young growth, the promise of the future, is surely killed, and it is the repeated fires running through the slash that makes the deserts.

To make fire protection effective in the Provinces, there is lacking first, the proper attitude, next the organization, next the men and adequate expenditure, and lastly, proper morality among the people at large.

Here we may find fault with ourselves for not more persistently and assiduously employing all the educational means possible to instruct the public, and to keep the matter stirred up by public prints and circulars, public addresses from lecture platforms and in schools, and by private talks.

Especially those, who living in the endless woods are cut off from a perspective and cannot realize that "a few acres more or less of this useless slash burned" may have serious consequences, need to be educated. The public conscience must be aroused more persistently.

The government really is helpless in the attempt to check the evil if not supported by active co-operation of the whole people. As the apostle St. John, at the end of his life had recognized and always preached the one doctrine, that all Christian virtues may be expressed in one—brotherly love,—so every forester must recognize and preach the one thing which is fundamental to all his endeavours, eradication of the fire fiend.

It is then simply these three things in one that we want; a management of the public forest property for continuity, which involve protection against destruction of the young growth and cut over lands from fire; segregation of agricultural lands before cutting begins; and a change of methods of disposal which will give control to the government over the manner of cutting and of leaving the timber limits.

How far have governments responded to these demands?

There is legislation regarding forest fires in each province and lately also more and more efficient organization to carry it into effect, although this is very variable from province to province, from British Columbia, where less than a handful of incompetent fire rangers attempt to protect