

paper manufacturing of the world will be done under the British flag instead of the American.

This is an economic question, and we have a just right to look forward to an economic solution of it, and I think it is not beyond the proper ambition of the people of Canada to come to that point.

Sir, I hope and believe that this meeting here in Montreal will arouse an interest in a large number of classes of people in the country in this Forestry question—people who have hitherto been indifferent, to say the least, to the matter, and sometimes, perhaps, actively antagonistic. I have pointed out shortly why the people of Montreal particularly are interested in this question.

Let me say now, a word or two in regard to the lumbermen of the country, and the interests of Montreal are largely concerned in the way of investment in lumbering also. I want to say emphatically that in my opinion forestry is the best friend of the lumberman. Instead of there being any antagonism between the foresters and the lumbermen, the latter are the very people who most require education along forestry lines throughout the land. They own the limits and have the right to cut the wood. They own those limits practically in perpetuity. If they can conserve these limits indefinitely by scientific forestry methods, they have an asset, not only for their own future, but for the future generations of lumbermen in Canada, which is absolutely incalculable, and can be made just as advantageous and profitable to their great-great-grandchildren as it is to-day to them.

But if instead of doing this, and instead of the adoption of scientific methods they continue the crude and wasteful methods of making the largest profits they can to-day and leaving the to-morrow to take care of itself, they may make—I do not say they will, but they may—make a few more dollars to-day. But when they pass from this sphere, they will leave behind them an asset, which will be valueless, and earn for them the curses of the future generations instead of their blessing, and will show that they regard not at all the future of their children, or the future of the country.

I know that to-day the lumbermen of Canada have awakened to these facts, and that they have already adopted improved methods to a very large extent. I know that to-day the lumbermen are perhaps the best supporters of this Forestry organization in Canada, and I honor them for it, and congratulate them upon this change. I want to impress still more upon them that if they spent even more of their profits—and in that business their profits are large, very large, I do not know anybody in Canada making more money in Canada in the last few years than lumbermen. I say this without reflection or reproach. I congratulate them on it. It is their right, and it is wise that