

CANADIAN FORESTRY EDUCATION.

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The forest has been aptly described as "the balance-wheel of nature," and the farther we look into the matter the more firmly are we convinced that this is really the case. It is the most highly organized portion of the vegetable kingdom, and its effects upon its environment are extremely important and far-reaching. By a ruthless disturbance of the "balance-wheel," the once powerful Persian Empire has been reduced to a state of pauperism. The destruction of her forests was swiftly followed by the drying up of her streams, the disappearance of her fertile fields, and the shrinkage of her vast population to something less than eight millions of people. Syria, Spain, Turkey, parts of Italy and southern France also know, to their cost, what a disturbance of nature's balance-wheel means, and if we are wise in our day and generation we will heed the teachings of history and try to profit by the sad experience of these countries, and do our utmost to preserve the proper balance between our woodlands and the areas cleared for agricultural purposes.

In all parts of the world the forest was first valued as a harbor for game. Later it was regarded as an impediment to agricultural development and relentlessly slashed and burned to get it out of the way. As good timber became scarce it was exploited in the most ruthless manner and vast areas were rendered almost worthless for the production of further crops. Both in itself and in its far-reaching effects upon mankind the forest is marvellously complex and only the most highly civilized peoples have acquired a clear conception of its relation to the future welfare of the nation. By the decay of its resources a nation may cease to exist, and whilst debating over the best methods of disposing of its wealth it may even lose its capital without ever realizing the fact. Only slowly does it seem to dawn upon the public mind that the loss of our forests without adequate restoration will be the deadliest imaginable blow to our future progress and prosperity. It is high time that war should be waged against the useless destruction and heedless waste of our forest wealth, and that provision should be made for future crops of trees. A prosperous nation cannot be built up in a desert, nor on the other hand can a people continue in power and influence when the territory from which they draw their substance shall have receded into barrenness. The standing of a nation is well