

Of Local Interest

The evening of Jan. 24th, a rare treat was afforded the members of the Debating Society, by a Lantern Lecture on Reforestation, delivered by Mr. Lawler, the secretary of the Reforestation Association of Canada. The able manner in which the lecturer dealt with his subject, convinced the Society that he has it completely in hand.

Mr. Lawler pointed out the evils produced, by laying the forest level with the ground. The trees shade the ground on the hill-sides, and retain the moisture in the soil, whereas, when they have all been cut off, there is no shade. Consequently, after a severe winter, with a lot of snow, the first warm sun, melts it, and the water rushes to the valley below, taking with it the light covering of soil, leaving the country barren. This also accounts for the dreaded inundations which invariably occur in the spring, caused by the overflowing of the rivers.

When the timber has been removed from sandy soil, the sun effects it in such a way, that it becomes light and dry, blowing into drifts like snow. Large tracts of land which were once covered with a luxuriant growth of timber, become barren, and absolutely valueless.

Mr. Lawler outlined the various remedies that are being applied in different countries, he also showed us on the screen, what is being done in Canada, along this line. The lecture, was indeed very interesting to all.

Mr. Louis Guillet, in a few very appropriate words, tendered Mr. Lawler a vote of thanks, in the name of the Society. The duties of chairman were very efficiently performed by Mr. Lee Kelley.

On Jan. 22nd College against Queen's at Kingston, to decide the tie of Dec. 5th. The subject of debate was: Resolved that it would be injurious to the interests of the United Kingdom to ratify the Declaration of London.

The debate was held in the Convocation Hall of Queen's University. Mr. R. S. Stevens, B.A., filled the chair very proficiently. The judges were: Justice B. M. Britton of Toronto, Major Sedgwick and J. J. Behan of Kingston. W. C. Clarke, M.A., and H.