

its climate, and in regulating the rainfall; both of which affect the community at large.

A long period from fifty to one hundred years or more is required for our forests to acquire their greatest commercial value. The farmer may say, "If I start a forest my earthly career will be ended before it comes to maturity, or before the return for my labor is realized." But we are building for a nation; and we know that the life of a nation is not measured in years only but in centuries.

We have great forest belts in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, British Columbia, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. This belt is also the home of many valuable fur-bearing animals, and it is scarcely necessary to say that their existence depends on the preservation of our forests, which is their home.

When all these conditions are considered, a moment's reflection will reveal what an important part the forest exerts in the country's welfare. Permit the destruction of the forest covering by fire or otherwise, and what will be the result? To say nothing of the evil effects on the climate and fertile soil of these districts, the severe winter would be made almost intolerable by the piercing winds, from which the forests now shelter them. The streams, deprived of their present reservoirs which the forest covering at their sources affords, will then be torrents in spring, and dry during the summer and winter months, causing destruction to the fish and to navigation. The wild animals would also disappear. Scientists state that if the forests were all cleared off the North Mountain in Nova Scotia, apples would not grow in the Annapolis Valley on account of the cold winds from the Bay of Fundy.

The esthetic value of forests has an influence on life, which it is well that Canadians should not neglect. The adornment of the home, of the city street, the park and the roadside with the graceful forms, the beautiful foliage, and the grateful shade of forest trees, brings to each a charm and attractiveness, which cannot but have an elevating effect on the national life by awakening the sense of beauty, and attracting the attention of the people more strongly to their homes and favourite places in their native land.

The Canadian Forestry Association has laid down certain principles of which the following is a summary: To advocate stricter measures in

dealing with our forests and woodlands; to awaken public interest to the deteriorating effects of their wholesale destruction; to encourage reforestation and planting of trees in cities and towns and villages; and to disseminate information regarding the great problem of forestry.

When the Forestry Association was first started it was composed of but a few far-seeing citizens of the Dominion. Now a large number of progressive people have identified themselves with this useful Association.

The people used to think that our forests were inexhaustible, and that Forestry was a "fad." If any interest was taken it was soon lulled by the absence of that pressure of necessity which is the greatest incentive to action. "The future may be allowed to look after itself."

(To be concluded in June.)

### The Schools of Nova Scotia.

The report of Dr. A. H. MacKay, Superintendent of schools for Nova Scotia for the year ending July 31, 1909 is more than usually interesting. It is a volume of nearly 300 pages, typographically excellent, and with numerous clear illustrations showing educational buildings and classes at work in the technical schools, to the details of which a considerable portion of the report is devoted. The marked advance in technical education, with the opening during the year of the Technical College at Halifax, shows a great development in industrial training which has been elaborated in the pages of the report with a skill and care that looks to greater fulfilment in the future.

In addition to the common schools these new technical schools had an enrolment for the year of 1375 as follows: Coal Mining Schools, 566; Engineering Schools, 338; Evening Technical Schools, 471. The total cost to the provincial treasury of running these for the year was \$33,068.15.

The public school enrolment was 101,680, an advance of 1575 pupils over the previous year, and the quarterly percentage of average attendance was 70.7, the highest in the records of the province. The percentage of annual registration in attendance was 60.7, a gain of 2.5 over the previous year. The total amount expended for school purposes during the year was \$1,229,834.32—a respectable sum for