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## *Preserve the Forest.*

THE arrival of the white man in America marked an area in the evolution of our forests, when the struggle for existence of the sylvan species entered upon a new phase. The civilization which has allowed its wasteful forces to play havoc with the forests of our country must now co-operate with nature to further the progressive evolution of a life whose products are almost as indispensable as pure water to the needs of man.

Probably the first important move made in this connection in Canada was when Professor B. E. Farnow gave a short course of lectures at the School of Mining, Queen's University, from the 26th to the 30th of January, 1903. The commission, under whose auspices these lectures were delivered, was at the time making efforts to open a branch of forestry instruction in the School of Mining, but, unfortunately, the looked-for government aid is still withheld. However, the idea to start a course in forestry instruction, which the School of Mining had striven for, was not lost; for to-day the University of Toronto, basking in luxuries of a provincial legislature's smiles and gold lace, can boast of such a forestry course in the faculty of Applied Science. There is no doubt that Queen's, a great national university, will also in a short time be thoroughly equipped for instruction in forestry engineering. For if the science of forestry is to be applied to the preservation of our timber areas, Canadian universities must train Canadian men for the work.

By the term preservation of forests, it must not be thought that such a scheme advocates a system implying to have, to hold, and not to use, nor that lumbering operations should cease temporarily; but rather that laws and regulations by government and industrial corporations should provide for judicious management of forests, that a season's cut of timber shall not exceed the increase by growth over the previous season. Then, again, the preservation of forest growth provides, not merely the assurance of a constant timber supply, but prevents the destruction of our water-powers and the washing away of the thin areas overlying the extensive Archaen formation; irrigation, climate and sanitation would be assured against the disastrous effect, not to speak of the aesthetic loss, which would follow the depletion of our forests. In this connection, perhaps, it is unfortunate that so much is left to the responsibility of provincial legislation and so little heard of the nation, especially when we consider that the great practical difficulty in connection with forestry is to properly know and make the sacrifices necessary in order to obtain the greatest benefit to the whole country for the future.