

loss from these destructive fires. It took nature hundreds of years to create those valuable forests. Will you allow them to be destroyed in a day and deprive posterity for a century to come of their inestimable benefits?

Owing to those immense ice fields of the higher altitudes, this Province is furnished with an abundance of water at the source of supply. The forest covering on the mountain sides aids in forming a natural reservoir by which a continuous flow is maintained. Allow it to be destroyed and you will do your part in creating a mountain desert.

Mention has been made of reforestation. Fortunately, in this Province nature, unaided, is doing that for you. A visit to almost any of those districts which have been burnt over a few years ago, will show you a splendid reproduction of the original varieties rapidly growing up to take the place of the original forest. You will see in most cases a splendid growth of young cedar and fir coming on. Nature, with the munificence which characterizes her operations everywhere in this favored land, seems in this instance, to be putting forth extra efforts to reclaim lost ground and all she asks is that you will not prejudicially interfere with her operations.

The costly work of artificial tree planting need not be attempted. Keep the fire out of this young timber and there is no reason why future generations may not be as abundantly supplied as you are to-day. It is neither good forestry nor good business to leave unutilized the product of the forest. As President Roosevelt pertinently says, the product of the forest is for use. And as this Province has a very large percentage of land unsuited for agriculture, but admirably adapted for the growth of timber, it follows that forestry here is a matter of great importance.

From what I have been able to learn of British Columbia, and I have had an opportunity of seeing a good deal of it, I am more than ever impressed with the vastness of its natural resources. Its fisheries, its timber and its minerals, almost overwhelm the imagination. Its future place as a producer of the economic minerals, will undoubtedly be foremost, but here again the timber is a necessity.

It was stated by an authority at the American Forest Congress that the mines of the United States consumed more timber than the railways, enormous as is the consumption of the latter. This being the case, it is apparent that those who are most interested in the success of the mines should not be indifferent regarding the forest.

The time was when the lumberman of the country looked with suspicion on the forester. Probably this was quite as