

Prize-Winning Essays and Their Writers

In this and subsequent issues of "The Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine" there will be published prize-winning essays in the recent School Essay Competition, conducted by the Canadian Forestry Association. The prizes awarded for each Province were as follows:—1st prize \$25; 2nd prize \$15; 3rd prize \$10.

OUR FORESTS are something in which all Canadians should be interested, since in the future of the forest lies a great deal of the future wealth and prosperity of the Dominion.

One might think that there is little need to worry since the forests seem so inexhaustible, but this is not so. There is ever going on, a course of devastation and destruction appalling in its immensity, which if allowed to continue unprevented, would in a short time, destroy all our vast acres of forest, and cut us off from one of our greatest sources of wealth and industry.

Along with Spring comes that smell of smoke in the air, which tells us that a forest fire is under way. Of all the causes of forest fires, such as live cinders from trains, bush fires beyond control, and carelessness, the latter is the most common. Just a match or cigarette dropped in a bunch of leaves, a puff of wind, and angry flames like hungry tongues leap up to devour perhaps an entire forest. When we think of the years required by these trees to complete their growth, and of the short time in which they may be destroyed, the work of years thus being undone in so many hours, the graveness of the situation impresses itself upon our minds.

1st Prize—New Brunswick

By Adelaide F. MacLauchlan
Perth Jct., N. B.

OUR FORESTS



Miss Adelaide MacLauchlan

Each time a forested area is burned over, less and less valuable trees grow up in place of the original forest. In almost every case the seed trees are killed, and consequently the area must be reforested. Besides being valuable for the timber it contains, a

forested area forms the best watershed, so we see that in preserving our timber lands, we insure an abundant water supply as well.

Many steps have been taken in the last few years towards preventing forest destruction. Forestry exhibition cars, lectures and moving pictures, have been sent from place to place to show the people the value of the forests, and the necessity of protecting them. There are also a great many other ways that have been taken to aid in stemming the tide of destruction. Thus we see that our forests require constant and vigilant care, if we are to keep them increasing, instead of decreasing and anything worth having, is well worth the effort it takes to get it. Our forests repay us a hundred-fold for the care we exercise over them.

A great deal of the timber lands of Canada are under Government control, but when we consider the fact that four-fifths of the Dominion are suited to the growth of trees only, we see the necessity of the Government taking the lead. This is no reason for the care of the forests being left entirely to the Government, however, for it is the duty of every individual as a tree patriot, to his or her country, to do all in their power to aid in preserving and protecting our forests.

Un certain amiral anglais passait tous ses loisirs à planter des arbres. Il en plantait partout, dans ses terres, le long des routes, ou sur la pente des collines rocailleuses, impropres à la culture. Ses amis le disaient toqué. Il leur répondait un jour: "Je plante des arbres pour rendre service à la marine et être utile à mon pays. On sait qu'il faut au moins 10,000 arbres pour construire un vaisseau; or, 10,000 arbres, c'est déjà une petite forêt. S'il n'y avait pas d'arbres, il n'y aurait pas de flottes!"

S'il n'y avait pas d'arbres, non seulement il n'y aurait pas de flottes, mais tout le pays souffrirait.

Le long des rues de la ville et dans les parcs publics, il est indispensable d'avoir des arbres qui purifient l'air, en absorbant l'acide carbonique. Ensuite les arbres sont une protection à mis l'instruction et la littérature à la portée de tous.

Premier Prix—Quebec

Par Germaine Virolle, (15 ans)
Montréal, Que.



Mlle Germaine Virolle

contre les vents et le soleil ardent; leur ombrage donne de la fraîcheur. Comme on les apprécie quand le pavé est brûlant! Cela dit, sans parler de leur côté pittoresque. Quel serait l'aspect d'une ville dépourvue d'arbres? Il faut donc planter et entretenir des arbres dans la ville pour l'hygiène comme pour l'esthétique.

Les Canadiens devraient apprécier leurs splendides forêts, parce que l'industrie forestière rapporte au pays plus que n'importe quelle autre industrie, sauf l'agriculture. Elle nous fournit le bois si indispensable. Sans le bois, pas de construction, pas d'ébénisterie, pas de carrosserie!

C'est encore à la forêt que nous devons la pulpe à papier, qui a donné à l'imprimerie un si grand essor et a mis l'instruction et la littérature à la portée de tous.

Un bon patriote doit faire tout en son pouvoir pour empêcher la des-