

pulpwood and lumber. In these thinnings the poorest trees are taken, all the dead, diseased and crooked being also removed.

THE FINAL CUT.

The trees left for the final cut will remain until they are from eighty to one hundred years old. That is a long time in the life of a man, but in the life of a province or nation it stands close to zero. And that is a reason why forest planting should be done by the State, and not be left to the private citizen. Moreover, because of the long time it takes for the crop of trees to mature, it should be planted now, while we still have timber to tide over the period while the crop is growing. It is a long time to wait for a harvest, but when the time does come for the final cut, there will stand on every acre from 30,000 to 40,000 feet of the finest quality of timber, to say nothing of the thinnings removed, which, in European planted forests, often amount to almost as much as the final cut. The lumbermen of Canada know that the best forest we have in the eastern provinces will not cut more than 20,000 feet per acre. Even the fine Douglas fir of British Columbia will scarcely exceed that figure.

The natural forest has a few acres well stocked with trees, and these are often very poor ones, while many acres are only half stocked, and many are not stocked at all. The cultivated forest has every acre fully stocked with fine trees. Entering such a forest, one walks through it with a continuous leafy canopy over his head. A planted forest serves well all the purposes for which a forest should exist. It furnishes wood, feeds the springs, prevents floods, hinders erosion, shelters from the wind, gives health and recreation, protects the fish and game, and gives the country aesthetic features. And it serves all these purposes better than the natural forest. How much better would the streams be protected if the banks were all clothed with cultivated forests! Now we find, to be sure, the shores of rivers well protected in places, while in other places there are long stretches along the shores wholly unprotected.

The forest lumbered periodically and then left to itself will not restore itself with valuable timber any more than a flower garden will restore itself with beautiful flowers if, periodically, all the finest specimens are taken and the others are left to contend with the weeds. For two hundred years France and Germany hoped thus to have their forests restored, only to meet with disappointment. Canada has fine natural forests, and though she is wisely conserving them, they are still being used with amazing rapidity, and it might be well for us to consider if we had not better get started in time, as Sir Wilfrid suggests, along lines of restoration which European countries were finally forced to follow.