

made to replace the timber that is taken away from what we call the limit under that policy. In Germany and France, I understand, it is the accepted policy, a policy that has been followed for generations, that, when a tree is removed in any way to replace it by the planting of another tree (applause). I am not prepared to say that such drastic conditions should be imposed upon the lumbermen,—though I am not prepared to say, on the other hand, that a plan of this kind should not be taken under advice. At all events, I submit to this Convention that we ought to do something more than we are doing at the present time (hear, hear). It is not fair to the country—it is not fair to us who are living and still less is it fair to the generations to come after us—that we should allow the destruction of the forest to go on year by year by the cutting down of the trees and make no effort whatever to replace what is thus taken away. The trees are a crop like any other growth. True, they are a crop of slow growth, but that is the only difference between trees and any other crop. In this, as in every case, when a crop is taken off, steps should be taken to replace it at once with another. I said a moment ago that I was not prepared to say that when the lumberman, in the course of his work takes away, say, 300,000 trees in a year he should at once plant 300,000 trees. But I do ask this Convention to consider what should be done in that matter. One thing might be asked, whether of the lumbermen or of the State that, where trees are taken away, trees should be seeded, so that we may have a crop coming on all the time. It is a fact which we face with some degree of sadness, even to mourning, that Canada, in a few years, will be devoid, absolutely devoid, of the beautiful pine forests which at one time were its pride. We can calculate the number of years—and the number is not very great, when there will not be another tree of the original forest to be cut upon the limits of the Canadian lumbermen. But, trees have grown and trees ought to grow again. There is an impression which I have heard expressed on more than one occasion, that it is useless to look for another crop of pine trees—that when you have removed the crop we found here, the growth of many years, the new crop of trees will be spreading and of no merchantable value. But I am told that there is a way whereby a new crop of trees can be grown. The growth should be started as soon as the original trees have been removed from the soil. A few years ago I was discussing this subject with a lumberman of great authority, a man known to some of you, the late John Bertram, a man most eminent in his profession and of the highest capabilities in many directions. He told me that, on his limits on Georgian Bay, he had a young crop of pine when he had started a few years before. The explanation he gave me was this—and I am glad to give here the information he imparted to me so as to gain the opinions of those