

Formerly there was enough of forestry to make a sort of natural reservoir that should hold back the waters. We shall have to reforest the country to a reasonable extent . . .

Hence the first preventive of flood is *Forestation*.

'The wind no man can tame. Like the earthquake, it is a hazard which civilization must accept. But floods are, in part, man-made. Once the Miami Valley, the pathway of the latest horror of the angry waters, was tree-clad and root-bound against excess of moisture. Then man came, saw gold in the standing timber, and felled it covetously and ignorantly.' So asserts the Sault Ste. Marie 'Evening News,' and asks: 'The greed that felled those noble trees, the carelessness and ignorance that stripped those narrow watercourses to the fatal onrush of the raging torrent—shall they not come under a resolution of abatement?'

We see examples of forest-destruction in many parts of the world, notably in China, where, according to the Sioux Falls 'Press,' to mention only the most notable floods, in 1833 no less than ten thousand persons were drowned by the floods; in 1888, three thousand; in 1904, over a thousand; while last year the floods made China the scene of a particularly dreadful disaster.

If floods are frequently reported from the Chinese Empire, they are seldom reported from Europe, but even there, in Paris itself, the people 'who have a most compelling reason to strive to keep their Seine within bounds, have not been able to devise against all contingencies, as witness the overflow of that stream three years ago,' the Galveston 'News' points out. But, as the Knoxville 'Sentinel' comments: 'After the last Seine flood the French Government took steps to afforest slopes which have been injudiciously denuded. It may be necessary for Ohio and Indiana to do likewise.' Their own recent disaster has caused French for-

esters to take special interest in ours. M. Daubray, Inspector of Forests, together with all the technical authorities in the French Ministry of Agriculture, agree, so we learn from the New York 'Tribune,' 'that the destruction of forests near the sources of rivers and high plateaus and hills is the primary cause of the Ohio disaster;' moreover, this opinion is shared by our Ambassador in France, the Hon. Myron T. Herrick, formerly Governor of Ohio, who states that 'for many years Governors of States where floods are now raging have repeatedly impressed upon Legislatures and the public the urgent necessity of enacting stringent laws based on the scientific experience of France and Germany for protecting forests from devastation and wholesale destruction.' The present catastrophe is attributed by Ambassador Herrick to this waste of forests, 'which, by timely legislation, could have been avoided.' He urges that no time should be lost 'in taking energetic measures to replant tracts of land so improvidently denuded of trees.' Finally, the Ambassador regrets that 'the wise provision of law embodied in all leases of land in the rural districts of France, requiring the lessee to plant a tree whenever a tree dies or is removed, does not apply in Ohio and Indiana.' Such provision, it is added, 'is merely one of many precautions to protect French trees, and if enforced during the last thirty years in Ohio and Indiana would have prevented the present disaster.'

Turning from France to England, we find similar expressions of opinion in the editorials of London newspapers, summed up in the 'Daily Mail's' charge that 'one cause of the floods is undoubtedly to be found in the destruction of forests.' The 'Daily Mail' emphasizes 'the extreme importance of the campaign now being carried on in the United States for the protection of the remaining forests and the reforestation of denuded areas.'