

**Evergreen Trees Should not be Wasted.**

The destruction of young evergreens for Christmas trees has been going on in these provinces for some years, especially in the vicinity of towns and railway stations. Of course it is the most beautiful and shapely trees, and those having a growth of some eight or ten years that are selected for this purpose, and the practice, if continued, must result most disastrously, not only to the usefulness, but to the beauty of our forests. A young evergreen forest in the vicinity of a railway station, visited by the writer during the past summer, presented a scene of desolation and waste that was truly pitiable. If only a moderate number of trees for our homes were required, it would not be so bad, but thousands and hundreds of thousands of these beautiful and shapely trees are sent abroad every year to supply the Boston, New York and other markets. These are cut and delivered at the railway stations for the pittance of two cents each tree, so we are told—barely living wages. When we reflect that these Christmas trees are the most useful that our young forests produce, it will be seen how great is the loss. In a few years they would develop into valuable timber trees, increasing their value a thousand fold.

Should not some effort be made to check this wanton and mischievous waste? Do not land-owners themselves see that they are destroying what would make their woods increasingly valuable in the lapse of a few years? The Forest Fish and Game Association, or the local governments have here a matter for their earnest consideration.

The suggestion has been put forth by a writer on this subject, Mr. Jas. S. Whipple, of Albany, N. Y., that it is quite feasible to make artificial trees nearly as handsome as the trim evergreen trees of the forest. This is reasonable; and it would result in the formation of a new industry, developing capital and employing labour.

The report that Dr. John Brittain, professor of nature study at the Macdonald College, Quebec, has retired on a pension of \$1,500 from the Carnegie Fund, proves happily to be without foundation. While his old friends are glad to hear of any good luck that should fall to him, they are not prepared to see him "chloroformed" thus. In another decade or so the pension will still be good after the country has had the benefit of his mature skill and experience. The REVIEW reserves its congratulations.

**The Death of Dr. Fletcher.**

The death of Dr. James Fletcher, entomologist and botanist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, is sincerely mourned throughout the whole of Canada. In the midst of a useful career, at an age when life perhaps has its greatest promise of fulfilment, he suddenly passed away on Sunday, November 8th, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, after undergoing an operation for an internal trouble. He had hosts of friends in every province of Canada, to whom he was endeared by his generous and kindly nature, his unfailing courtesy and desire to extend a helping hand to every one who sought his assistance, and by the wealth of his scientific knowledge on many subjects, more especially of plants and insects. On these, his chosen subjects, he was an acknowledged authority. His timely advice to students and others who sought it was promptly given, and his popular lectures always aroused interest and enthusiasm.

Dr. Fletcher was born March 28th, 1852. The position in the civil service of Canada, to which he was appointed in 1876, gave him leisure to study the natural history of Ottawa and vicinity in company with a devoted band of naturalists, among whom he was an acknowledged leader. The immediate outcome was the formation of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club, one of the most active societies on the continent, and a model for all similar associations in Canada. Dr. Fletcher's work aroused the attention of the government authorities, and when the Experimental Farms were established in 1887, he was appointed entomologist and botanist, and became the trusted assistant of the Director, Dr. Saunders, in the important work that has since been carried on for the improvement of agriculture.

Dr. Fletcher was at all times a teacher, and a devoted one. Whether before an audience of grown people or children—in the field or on the platform—he aroused their interest and enthusiasm in a wonderful degree. He was greatly loved by the children of Ottawa and of other parts of Canada where his visits were most frequent, and these will feel his loss as that of a dear friend.

A tender husband and father, an estimable citizen, a sincere friend, a devoted helper in every good work—the death of James Fletcher came as a personal loss to many outside of a bereaved family circle.