

Enclosure 7.

Département des Terres de la Couronne,
Section des Bois et Forêts.

Québec, 2 Octobre 1884.

MONSIEUR,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser la réception de la dépêche du Très Honorable Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Colonies, en date du 21 Novembre dernier, demandant tous les renseignements possibles relativement à l'épuisement des forêts du Canada.

En réponse j'ai reçu instruction de vous transmettre une Copie du Rapport de Mr. A. J. Russell, ex Agent des bois, à Ottawa, sur la condition dans laquelle se trouvent actuellement les forêts de la Province de Québec, ainsi que Copies des lois et règlements de ce département, concernant la vente et l'administration des bois sur les terres de la Couronne.

Au sujet des Communications de Mr. Little publiées dans le "Times" de Londres, allant à dire que les forêts de l'Amérique du Nord seraient détruites sous une période de six ans, je dois aussi vous dire que ce Monsieur dans une entrevue avec l'Honorable W. W. Lynch, Commissaire des Terres de la Couronne pour la Province de Québec, a déclaré que l'avancé en question se rapportait aux forêts des Etats Unis et non a celles du Canada.

A L'Honorable Secrétaire Provincial,
&c. &c. &c.
Québec.

J'ai l'honneur, etc.
(Signé) TACHÉ,
Asst. Commissaire T. C.

MEMORANDUM on the CROWN TIMBER FORESTS of the Province of Quebec and the Subjects submitted at the American Forestry Congress, at Montreal, in August 1882 that might be applicable thereto.

Before proceeding to consider how far the experienced and scientific information and practical suggestions contained in the addresses delivered and the articles read at the meetings of the Forestry Congress, and the discussions that followed, may be of use to us, it may be well to take a glance at the extent and character of our own forest regions; to assist us in judging of their capacity to meet the demand for home use and exportation likely to be made upon them in future.

Laurentian
Forest
zones.

Commencing on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, at the boundary between Canada and Labrador, we first come in view of the great broad band of Laurentian Forest Highlands. After skirting the Gulf and River of St. Lawrence for 650 miles, it falls back above Cap Tourment, and sweeping round westward, in rear of the old Seigniorial Settlements that occupy the northern portion of the great plain of the St. Lawrence, strikes the Ottawa below Grenville, and following it, more or less closely, crosses that river at Portage du Fort, covering all that part of Ontario north and east of Lakes Huron and Superior, and extending, throughout, back to the northern boundary of the Provinces and far beyond it, sweeping northward with great breadth, between Lake Winnipeg and the Silurian low lands of Hudson's Bay to the Arctic Ocean.

As the territories included in the 190,000 square miles or thereby that the Province of Quebec embraces of this vast region, though more or less alike in geological and physical formation, differ materially in the character and value of their timber forests, it may be suitable to consider each of them separately before speaking of that part of the Province lying south of the St. Lawrence. It differs from them on the important particular of being a country generally suitable for cultivation, and largely so occupied, while the territories on the north side, though about 177,800 square miles in extent, exclusive of the settled country between the Laurentides and the St. Lawrence and on the Ottawa, and the fertile basin of Upper Saguenay, do not contain a portion of arable land fit for cultivation equal to one fourth part of their area. And much even of that small proportion, from coldness of climate in the northern parts or from difficulty of access and inter-communication where scattered in small blocks, or from both causes combined, will long be too far below the ordinary standard of agricultural value to attract settlement or admit of cultivation being profitable or of the settlers living permanently even in moderate comfort, excepting through the means of the market for produce and the employment afforded them, by a continuance of the manufacture of timber, which to be permanent must be carried on, on a moderate scale, with that ever