

upon opening up the country, without increasing the rural population and therefore his labor market. He recognizes further that:—

It creates greater fire hazards for his remaining limits.

It creates greater danger from insects and climatic exposure to his remaining forests.

It compels him, in self protection, to endeavour to cut his forests in areas and in a manner not always the most suitable for the preservation of his limits since he will naturally cut over those areas which he thinks will be taken away from him in the near future.

His enthusiasm for forest conservation and more progressive technical forest management evaporates, as he does not see the use of spending money on these matters on forests for the future when he may not be left in possession of these forests for a sufficient length of time to enable him to derive any benefit from his expenditure of cash and energy.

Nor does the Province receive a proportionate benefit from this state of affairs:—

The forests are continually being depleted and the forest areas taken up in such a manner that administration and management in the future will be difficult and expensive.

The Government receives no revenue from these operations.

The development of the country is not advanced in proportion as the land is apparently allotted to colonization at the expense of the forests.

A new rural population is not attained.

The control and preservation of the water supply will become difficult as the forests disappear. Witness the floods that annually cause so much damage in the Chaudiere Valley.

The limit owner is not encouraged to evolve or practice forestry over his limits and his co-operation with the Government on this question is half hearted.

The cure suggested for this state of affairs is the close co-operation between the Government Departments concerned and the limit holders, so that the whole Province may be inspected and classified, after which those areas unsuitable for colonization and the areas on which high forest should be preserved to maintain water supply, prevent erosion, etc., should be established as **permanent forest Reserves**.

A defined policy for colonization should be formulated after which it will be possible to place further areas suitable for cultivation, but for which population is not available at the moment, in forest Reserves for shorter periods, renewable after each term until colonization definitely starts in these areas.

Such a policy would minimize or eradicate the evils spoken of above, would obtain the confidence of the limit-holder and definitely identify him with the progressive forest policy towards which recent legislation is leading.

If some such policy is not given effect to it is only a matter of time before many of the bigger sawmills will close and the result of this will be reflected most upon the colon, as his main market for his labor and his produce will disappear with the lumberman, to the great disadvantage of the colon and future colonization.

We must get away from the idea that we have an inexhaustible supply of timber—we have not. In fact we have seen it stated on good authority that in spite of the great outcry on timber shortage in America, America has four times the quantity of timber that is available in Canada. It behooves us, therefore, to look to the interests of our Province and preserve that which is and will long continue to be, our greatest asset. N. H. R.

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