

Why should they not be cautioned particularly and forcibly against the dangers of forest fires, and made to understand the *à propos* of the official regulations which relate to them? Why should it not be emphasized to them that the colonist is wrong when he persists in tilling a barren and gritty land? Why should he not be made to understand that this poor land, from which a few passable harvests may possibly be reaped as long as its humus and the ashes have not been exhausted, will soon be unable to repay the toil which would have to be expended upon it; that he better choose another lot of good, deep soil, and leave the poor one covered up with its perpetual panoply of valuable timber.

These are some of the points which I should like to see treated in popular tracts, to be distributed everywhere among the population of farmers and colonists. I do not mean, as I said before, complete didactic dissertations; God forbid! The people could not read them. A few pages would suffice, provided they be stirring, impregnated with the good common sense which appeals to every one and always produces its effect.

All these publications should be written in French and English. When the forest is at stake, the province of Quebec plays a very important part, and, whether we will it or not, the English papers would not now and will never be properly understood by the French population of Québec farmers; no more, I suppose, than the French publications would now or ever will be understood by the English speaking farmers of Ontario. I am glad to mention in connection with that that Hon. A. Turgeon has ordered to be prepared in French an opusculé on the general principles of the science of forestry, which is to be distributed throughout the province of Quebec. For the same purpose I would like our association to publish in the two official languages of the Dominion, and by thousands, all its reports, in order that a large number of readers may profit by them.

At the risk of abusing your patience, I shall indicate another way of instructing the people on forestry matters: I mean the example. Here, I speak especially of the enlightened class. They should take great care of their forests, if they have any, and even try plantations, if they can afford it. However, it can be said that these plantations are hardly practicable in our Quebec province. We must, first of all, preserve what we have, improve it if possible, and then our duty will have been fulfilled. Nevertheless there are instances when planting may be the only means of utilizing certain bare surfaces or of preventing real calamities. On this very point, the last number of the *Canadian Forestry Journal*, from a report of Dr. J. Fletcher gives an interesting account of attempts made on the sandy hills of Argenteuil, near Lachute. These experiments date back from 1898 and before, and the owners of these hills are already quite satisfied with the results obtained.

Besides this example of Lachute, here is another more conclusive.

The priests of St. Sulpice are the owners of large properties at Oka, on the Lac-des-deux-Montagnes. Near the Indian village were vast surfaces of quicksand completely arid. These sandy hills were a growing menace to the neighbourhood. The sand was invading very rapidly under the double impulse of the summer winds