

Since in Canada the governments of Dominion Provinces control, retain ownership of the bulk of forest properties it is to the governments in the first place, that they appeal to.

First of all they want the governments of the Dominion and of the Provinces to change, radically, their attitude towards this property.

"The devil take the hindmost" or "What has posterity done for us?" this is the attitude which is characteristic of the majority of mankind in the struggle, not only for present day existence, but for present day accumulation of wealth. While this is to a large extent, if not the professed, yet the actually practised attitude of private individuals, I am afraid it has also been, and is still frequently, the attitude of governments: that is to say the exigencies of the present are often an overwhelming superior argument as against the needs of the future. It takes, indeed, a high degree of farseeing statesmanship to so manage the affairs of the present that the future shall not suffer, and its needs be taken care of. Especially in a government which is built on popularity, on direct support by the present day masses, the politician, be he ever so farseeing is bound to let the present day considerations weigh the most.

Hence it is but natural that Canadian government, like other governments which had to deal with newly developing countries, in the face of plenty have allowed the present generation to use the resources of the country wastefully and without regard to the future, overlooking the *providential function* of government.

Hitherto the governments have looked upon the forest either as an inexhaustible resource like air and water, or else as an exhaustible, but non-restorable resource, like the mines. They have pulled the house to pieces and sold the brick instead of keeping it in repair and securing the rents by proper management.

During the last 40 years alone over 1,000 million dollars worth of these "brick" have been torn out of the building and sent out of the country in exports, mostly of raw material, and, in addition, the domestic requirements of a population of say four million people in the average have been supplied, which may be estimated, outside of fuel wood, at not less than 1,000 million dollars in value.\* During the same period less than 100 million dollars (probably not 80 million) have been collected by the governments in dues, ground rents, leases, and otherwise for the use of their forest properties, by so much reducing, to be sure, the need of other taxation, but also by the manner of collecting these taxes the destruction of the resources from which they are collected. For the Eastern Provinces at least the life of the golden goose that has enriched the country and built its homes and industries, is doomed in the near future.

The government undoubtedly acted in good faith and believed that they were doing the best for the country by encouraging the opening up and the utilization of the vast timber wealth; moreover, they acted in the belief that this wealth was inexhaustible, and that, therefore, for a long future no concern need be had as to a conservative management.

They did not realize that while the woodland was extensive, the saw timber was quite limited; they did not realize how rapid the growth of the world and of the requirements of modern industrial development would be, and how slow the growth of trees.

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\*Taking as a fair average for the period, the Census of 1891, we find the population was 4,833,000, the consumption of all forest products totalled \$80,000,000, or \$16.00 and 296 cubic feet per head, of which seventy per cent. was accredited to home consumption. Deducting the exports of that year with 25,000,000 from the total value accredited to other than firewood, leaves \$53,000,000 worth of sizeable material for home consumption, or about \$7.00 per capita leading to above estimate.