

here, the growth of many years, the new crop of trees will be spreading and of no merchantable value. But I am told that there is a way whereby a new crop of trees can be grown. The growth should be started as soon as the original trees have been removed from the soil. A few years ago I was discussing this subject with a lumberman of great authority, a man known to some of you, the late John Bertram, a man most eminent in his profession, and of the highest capabilities in many directions. He told me that, on his limits on Georgian bay, he had a young crop of pine which he had started a few years before. The explanation he gave me was this—and I am glad to give here the information he imparted to me, so as to gain the opinions of those who have experience in these matters—he told me that, when the crop of pine was cut off, the new crop to spring up would consist largely of poplar, and the poplars grew faster than the pine or hardwood trees. And he said : If you take care to plant pine seeds underneath these poplars, the young pines will grow up shaded by the faster-growing trees. The pines, in their efforts to reach the sunlight, will grow tall and without limbs. After a time, when they overtop the poplars, their life is assured. If this be the case, it seems to me we have here a method of reproducing our trees and of having, for all time, a constant supply. (Applause). It is a natural thought that we shall not live to see this young generation of trees at their full growth ; but, as has been stated a moment ago by His Excellency the Governor General, we must not think alone for ourselves, we must think of the prosperity of Canada in the days when all of us shall be sleeping in our graves. This is the sentiment, I am sure, that actuates this entire assembly. (Loud applause).

The next thing I would like the convention to consider is the protection of the forest against its many enemies. For the forest, unfortunately, has many enemies. Man is bad enough, we all agree ; but man is not so bad as the insects, and the insects are not so bad as fire. The fire is the great enemy of the forest. Nothing can be sadder for us to consider than that, during the summer months there are miles and miles of forest destroyed by fire. This goes on every year. Speaking of my own experience, it has been going on ever since I can remember. It goes on, perhaps, not to so great an extent as in former years, but there is far too much of it yet. I was talking, a few years ago, with one of the lumbermen of the city of Ottawa, and he made the statement to me that the enormous quantity of lumber taken to market out of the Ottawa valley does not represent more than ten per cent of the timber that has been destroyed by fire. If this is a true statement the fact is simply appalling. Last week, I met one of the lumber kings of the Ottawa valley, who asked me, "What are you going to do at this Forestry Convention ?" I said, "We are going to compel the lumbermen to protect the forest against fire." He replied, "Why, the lumbermen are doing more in that direction now than all the rest of the community put together." I said, "I quite believe it. But that is not saying very much for the lumbermen. Because the rest of the community does absolutely nothing to protect the forest, and the lumbermen may well be doing more without doing enough."

What measures ought to be taken to protect the forests against the raging fires that every year consume such an appalling quantity of the best timber of the country? I know that the lumbermen keep a patrol of the woods of the Ottawa valley. And