

sula, but it is more prudent to take precautionary measures now before any particular locality suffers than to wait until matters are in the same condition as in the western part of the Eastern Townships, the Chaudiere River, the St. Francis and the small rivers flowing north into the St. Lawrence.

I myself have seen the old stumps of fifty or seventy-five years ago being exploited for firewood southwest of Montreal. I have met men who, visiting these places, which they were familiar with many years ago, were unable to find the brooks and streams they used to fish in, nothing being observable but dry beds partly grown with weeds.

The territory I should suggest being created a forest reserve can be described as follows:—

“Commencing at the intersection of the 67th meridian, thence along the rear line of Bonaventure County, thence on the same bearing to the 65th meridian at Lac Edouard; thence north along the 65th meridian to the 49th parallel; thence east along the 49th parallel to the intersection with rear line of Township Cap Chat, hence following rear line of Townships Romieu and Dalibaire and Cherbourg to the 67th meridian; thence south along the 67th meridian to the place of beginning, comprising an area of about 2,500 square miles, or say 1,500,000 acres, more or less.”

Quite a large percentage of this territory is under license to cut timber, and if created a reserve these limits would immediately be enhanced in value by reason of such action; better bids would be obtainable for the lands not already licensed when put up for sale,—any lumberman being willing to pay more for a limit in a reserve than an equally well timbered berth outside of it where there is danger of encroachment by settlers. And as regards settlers and colonization, such reservations of river sources and watersheds are directly in the true interests of such movements—at least the very best and most learned authorities are unanimous on this point.

The natural irrigation of the Gaspé Peninsula, as it exists to-day, is perfect. By all means let us maintain it.

To demonstrate the remarkable concentration of river sources