

and millions of acres in Ontario and Quebec which could be made productive timber districts, but which will never be productive agricultural districts."

In the Province of Quebec, the Laurentian Forest Highlands, lying on the north of the St. Lawrence, occupy an area of 178,000 square miles, the greater portion of which, being fit for nothing else, must remain a timber-forest for ever, increasing in value as timber becomes more scarce elsewhere. It is capable of maintaining a sparse but hardy population in comparative comfort by the development of the resources of its mines, and of its forests, if cared for and preserved. Another forest-region in the Upper Ottawa territory covers an area of some 30,000 square miles. On account of its favourable geographical position along the banks of a great river, and the unfitness of much of its area for other cultivation, the Province of Quebec seems destined to remain a timber-yielding and timber-trading country. A Committee appointed by the American Forestry Congress, at its Montreal Meeting, recommended :—

1. The reservation of all pine and spruce lands, unfit for settlement, for lumbering purposes exclusively.
2. The prohibition of the burning of bush by settlers in the vicinity of fir trees during the months of May, June, September and October (burning in July and August being already interdicted in the Province of Quebec).
3. The division of the timber country into districts, and the appointment of police under a superintendent with magisterial powers, whose duty it shall be to detect and punish offenders, and provide for the extinguishment of fires.
4. The cost of the maintenance of this protection might partially be met by the imposition of a moderate tax on the parties owning or leasing timber lands.

In British Columbia, the southern and western portion is a densely wooded country, both mountains and plains being covered with thick and stately forests. To the north and east there is less timber, and that of inferior quality. The forests of economic value embrace an area situated between the Cascade range of mountains and the Pacific coast, and extending from lat. 49° N. to lat. 55° N., together with Vancouver and adjacent islands, and the Queen Charlotte group. The valuable Douglas pine, or red fir, covers that portion of the area indicated which extends between the southern boundary and a parallel drawn through the north extremity of Vancouver's Island. North of this northern line, and including the Queen Charlotte Islands, the Douglas fir is largely replaced by yellow cypress, red and white cedar, and white pine. The numerous and far-reaching inlets along the sea-board afford access to the forests, and greatly facilitate lumbering. The interior of British Columbia is but sparsely timbered, but the eastern portion, watered by the Columbia and Kootenay rivers and their tributaries, contains large areas of timber of great commercial value.