

the Act is practically a dead letter. This is a question which should engage the attention of every one who has the conservation of this, one of our principal assets, a source of untold wealth, at heart. An association should be formed, or we might all join the Canadian Forestry Association and by co-operation devise ways and means for the protection of our forests. I believe I am right in saying that we in British Columbia have the largest extent of primeval forest in compact masses of any country in the world. We have an enormous extent of forest, forests the magnitude of which is unsurpassable not only as regards their commercial value, but for beauty and grandeur. But, gentlemen, they are not inexhaustible; the encroachments on them by the lumberman, the woodman, the settler, and above all by forest fires, will sooner or later exhaust them, and unless we now grapple with this question and inaugurate a proper system of forestry conservation, we shall even in our generation be confronted with the problem that is now, and has been for a long time, engaging the attention of the people in the East, viz., how to regain our lost wealth. Vast extents of our lands are of a character only suited for the production of forest trees. Vast areas of such lands have been denuded of their timber by fires, started, I fear, in many cases wilfully, and certainly in many, carelessly. These lands are now practically valueless; the young growth is often destroyed a second time through the same agency; streams are dried up, and instead of the eye being feasted on the rich green of the forest trees, it is distressed on every side by the spectacle of blackened stumps and bare rocks.

"There are many phases of this question of forestry, and it is well nigh inexhaustible. I had the pleasure a few nights ago of listening to an address given by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor before the Natural History Society, on the subject of tree planting and his experience with the cultivation of the Black Walnut, and I assure you that after hearing him no one could help being convinced of the practicability of reforesting our denuded areas in and about our cities with trees of that description, which perhaps not in our time) will become of commercial value, but which, in the time of, I hope, all who are honoring me with a hearing, will become "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

\*

At the meeting of the Ontario Entomological Society held at London on the 15th of November, a very instructive paper

was read by Professor Lochead, entitled, "A Plea for the Systematic and Economic Study of the Forest Insects of Ontario." An interesting statement made by him, and one showing alike the importance of his subject and the resources of our Province, was that of the 142,000 square miles comprised by the Province, 120,000 square miles, or six-sevenths of the Province, are still Crown lands, either still unworked or under lease by lumbermen. Professor Lochead pointed out that the recent report of the Royal Commission appointed to consider the subject of forest preservation in Ontario contained no reference to the injury wrought by insects. Insects, he said, were responsible in a great many ways for damage to the forests. Forest regions injured by insect depredations were more easily set on fire than regions of healthy trees. On the other hand, weak and unhealthy trees invited the attacks and proved prolific breeding grounds for the insects. Professor Lochead advocated a system of forest rangers, who knew something of the insect pests of the forest, and who could take

measures to contro them as far as possible. To this end, however, it was necessary that more accurate information be obtained as to the nature of the various insects found in the forest regions and on this he based his plea for their thorough study. Professor Lochead's paper was followed by an interesting discussion, in the course of which Dr. Fletcher made the statement that the lumbermen of the Ottawa valley alone estimated their yearly loss from insect depredators at \$1,000,000.



Mouth of the White Pine River, Quebec.

\*

The Mattawin Fish and Game Club at its annual meeting in Westmount, Que., November 15th, elected officers as follows, viz.:—President, James Gardner; Secretary-Treasurer, J. Stevenson Brown; Committee, E. B. Hibbison, Smeaton White and H. Magor. After the business meeting the members were entertained by the retiring President, J. G. Ross.

\*

While a British angler was fishing on the river Teviot, his attention was attracted by the roundness of a stone which had afforded him footing in making a difficult cast. The stone was more than half embedded in the bank, and on being dug out was found to be entirely round, and it bore marks showing that it had been chipped into shape. The ball, which is of sandstone, measured 42 inches in circumference, and its weight is 9 pounds. It is supposed to have been used in warfare. The missile is of the same dimensions as the stone balls deposited at the side of Mons Meg at Edinburgh Castle, and date from 1496.—*Forest and Stream*.