

stranding of a comparatively insignificant amount of this material along the banks of the river, lying many feet below the level of the city, and composed of solid rock in the vicinity of the city, should not in the slightest degree be injurious to the public health.

5. As regards the beauty of the landscape.

Upon that point we admit that floating sawdust does not improve the general appearance of the river, but it must be remembered that, this is a utilitarian age and that the interests of any important industry, the success of which affects the well being of so many people, are invariably held to be paramount to the gratification of mere aesthetic taste satisfactory and desirable as that may be under proper conditions.

In considering this question it should be borne in mind that lumber has been manufactured upon the Ottawa for upwards of forty years and upon its tributaries at least ninety-five years, during which time sawdust and mill refuse have been thrown into the stream. If during that long period of time no substantial injury has resulted to any public or private interest from this practice, which we submit can easily be shown to be the case, there can be no grave danger to such interests from the continuance of this practice. Especially will this be seen to be the case when it is remembered that probably two-thirds, if not more, of the timber of the Ottawa Valley has already been harvested, and that in future the lumber industry must gradually decline.

The official returns of the Crown Lands departments of Ontario and Quebec, from the Ottawa section, and the statements of the Upper Ottawa Improvement Company of logs brought down the Ottawa from year to year, will show that during the past six or eight years the volume of business upon the Ottawa and its tributaries, especially in the Ottawa district has declined nearly or quite fifty per. cent. When we couple with this decline the fact that saws of much lighter guage are used in the manufacture of lumber than were used eight or ten years ago, we are quite safe in saying that the volume of sawdust and mill refuse thrown into the Ottawa is considerably less than one-half what it was say ten years ago.

The present situation of this question then is; that the pine upon the Ottawa has been two-thirds cut; that the annual volume of business has declined nearly or quite fifty per cent, and that the quantity of sawdust and mill refuse from this greatly decreased volume of business is very much less per thousand feet than was the case several years ago probably not over one-third in the aggregate what it was then. But even assuming that all sawdust, and what is called 'mill refuse,' were kept out of the river, there would still be a considerable quantity of rubbish composed largely of bark from the logs which cannot be kept out of the river, and the presence of which in the stream must necessarily be an incident of the lumber trade so long as it continues to be exploited upon the Ottawa.