

profitably used, for that purpose than for the growth of agricultural products.

Our people too frequently fail to realize the elements of reproduction and growth that are constantly going on in the forest; that though they do not require to sow, yet there is a proper time to harvest a wood crop, and that a little care in the protection of the young trees from destruction by stock or otherwise will be amply rewarded by the young trees which should take the place of those that have reached maturity, and which the owner has removed. There is another fact regarding trees very different from agricultural products, and it is this: no rotation of the forest crop is necessary. The same varieties can be grown on the same soil for an indefinite period.

A considerable percentage of our forest land lying immediately north of the present settled districts in Ontario and Quebec, but not extending beyond the northern watershed of the St. Lawrence is held under license by lumbermen and capitalists. These licensees have only the right to cut the timber of certain varieties on their limits. In former years the bush operations of the lumbermen were invariably followed a year or two after by a forest fire, that not only burnt up the dry brush that he had left on the ground, but also destroyed all the remaining standing timber, and not only that, but more frequently than otherwise the fire did not confine itself to the area cut over, but spread to other parts and often destroyed large adjoining areas of good timber. It is gratifying to know that great improvement in this respect has taken place within the past few years, and that the destruction in those districts by forest fires has greatly decreased, owing to the greater care exercised in the use of fire, and by a patrol system which cannot be too highly commended.

Another step in advance, however, is necessary, and that is with reference to the proper harvesting of the timber crop so that the same limit may continue through the increment of growth to furnish a timber crop in perpetuity. Here is a great field for intelligent work. The time has now arrived when the timber on those limits has reached such a value that no holder can afford to disregard the extensive young growth of pine not yet large enough for saw logs with which every limit abounds, and which if protected will more than repay a good rate of interest on any care that may be necessary to protect it. There is a great opportunity here for the intelligent forester. Not only is it necessary to protect the limit from fire; to cut only trees that have arrived at a state of maturity, but also to remove the useless or inferior varieties in order that the more valuable may have room to grow and that the area may be utilized to the best possible advantage.

Let us now consider the conditions of that vast stretch of unoccupied forest country lying north of what has been referred