

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere—that grand old man who may easily be granted the father of Canadian Forestry—a gentleman whom we are all proud to honour with our love and esteem. His work in the cause of forestry is of such a nature that it stands as an example to every person who professes an interest in the subject. Not content with spreading the propaganda by voice and pen, Sir Henri, with his own hands, made plantations of forest trees in Quebec and British Columbia and watched and tended their growth from the seed, thus securing practical information of great value, which he takes the greatest pleasure in sharing with all those who seek to profit from the results of his experience. Sir Henri will never need a monument if his dream of Canadian Forestry be half fulfilled, for what could be more noble tributes to his memory and his life work than the afforested prairies of Canada and the reforested timber lands of the older provinces—actualities which are made possible through the efforts of the Association which he founded. British Columbia is so very much a “wooded country”—so lavishly endowed with timber—that its people are hard to move to a sense of the importance of forest preservation—indeed the best years of the lives of many of the old timers were spent in destroying the big trees and thick underbrush which covered the soil now given to the production of bread, beef, and fruit, and it was a hard task for any man to convince those pioneers, or their descendants, that a day would ever dawn when the forests of British Columbia might be depleted—as well attempt one hundred years ago to arouse enthusiasm in forest preservation in the breasts of the men who were chopping out homes in the woods of Upper and Lower Canada, or the pioneers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Sir Henri, however, after much effort, enlisted the interest of a number of gentlemen who formed the British Columbia branch of the Canadian Forestry Association, and who worked faithfully under his leadership to advance the objects of the Association.

The progress of the movement inaugurated by Sir Henri has been naturally slow, for one of the greatest stumbling blocks to the settlement of our public lands is the problem of clearing them of timber, cheaply and effectively. The cost of clearing land deters many a settler from staking a pre-emption, for labour is high and but few individuals are willing to undertake the work single handed. Speaking in round numbers the land area of British Columbia is 250,000,000 square acres, of which about 182,000,000 are forest and woodland, a large portion of which is classed as timber land. So dense are our forests and so big our trees that 20,000 to 50,000 feet, board measure, to the acre is no uncommon yield, but reducing an average of these figures to a reasonable amount we have in store a stupendous total of available timber.