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Rebuilding Forests of France

A Graphic Article Telling of War's Havoc on Great Woodlands
—A Century of Labor Needed.

(Translated for the Canadian Forestry Journal.)

"From the woods of Ailly, there remain but a few mutilated trunks. It is a field of desolation, levelled by shells. There no longer exists an inch of ground that has not been overturned by explosives."

The January issue of "La Science et la Vie," a review published in Paris, contains a very interesting article on the damages wrought to the forests of France by the war and on the means and methods to be employed for their reconstruction. The author of the study is Mr. Louis Marin, député of Meurthe-et-Moselle, who is, as may be inferred by the reading of his essays, an expert in matters concerning the preservation of forests and reforestation. We offer to our readers a résumé of the article, as sufficient space cannot be spared for its entire reproduction.

After having alluded to the way with which the Germans are pillaging those parts of the forests of France where their armies are operating, imitating in this work of destruction, their ancestors, the savage invaders of 1870, who unjustifiably and mercilessly laid waste the woodlands they had frequented, Mr. Marin goes on to describe how the forests have to be necessarily treated by both sides in this tremendous conflict. He says:

"What have been, during the war, the causes of our forests' destruction? The building of trenches on the two adverse fronts; the ravaging effects of projectiles hurled by guns of all calibers, which, in a hailstorm of iron, mow down everything before them, breaking the trees and leaving, instead of a thickly-wooded area, a mere strip of land covered with dismantled trunks and dead snags; the construction by the engineering corps of works of defense; the consumption of firewood; the erection of log shelters, in short, of many works necessitating an extensive felling of trees, and, finally, the hewing down of an enormous number of trees of all sizes which obstructed the range of the artillery."

Woods in Warfare.

Mr. Marin then recalls the explanations he has given, in June, 1913, of a bill submitted to the French Parliament concerning the protection of the forests. He had then dealt with the importance of the wooded regions in warfare. When a forest stands in the