

506/14/56/6

Canadian Forestry Journal

VOL. XIV.

JANUARY, 1919

No. 1

RECONSTRUCTION IS A CONSERVATION QUESTION

By Gifford Pinchot, Former Chief Forester of the United States.

December 9, 1918.

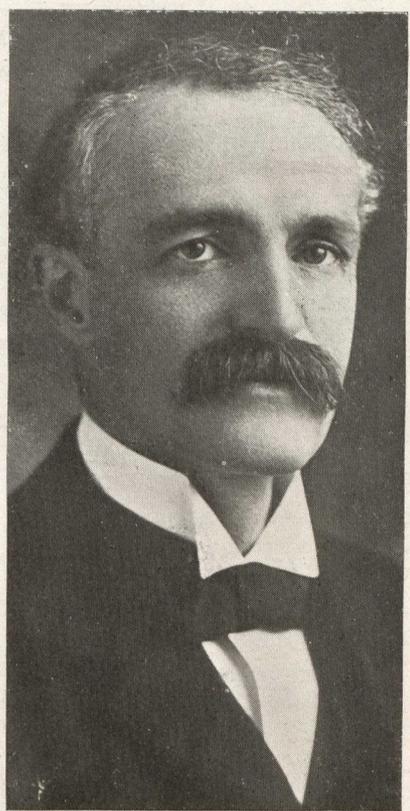
How can we make use of the earth in order to make its forests and waters, lands and minerals, more available for the service of humanity than ever before—more effective toward the greatest good to the greatest number for the longest time?

That is the fundamental question in reconstruction. The second question is, How shall the benefits from the use of the earth be distributed so that more people will be prosperous and happy than ever before?

Reconstruction is a conservation question, and can not be handled successfully unless the conservation point of view is fully kept in mind.

In many ways the forest is the fundamental natural resource, for it not only supplies a basic raw material of modern civilization, but makes it possible for us to get and use the other raw materials which it does not itself supply. Without wood, men have not advanced beyond the Esquimaux stage. Reconstruction can not be successfully handled by neglecting the forests.

You in Canada are more fortunate than we in the United States in having begun to save your forests before destruction had advanced to the point it had in ours. You have begun to prepare your plans for reconstruction earlier also. I



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venture to express the earnest hope that in planning for the new, greater, and more glorious Canada which we rejoice to see emerging from the War, you will keep in the forefront of your minds the FOREST, mother of men and source of prosperity, and that you will build firmly for your immeasurable future in forestry, and in all other branches of the great problem of reconstruction.

GIFFORD PINCHOT.