

And this is what is called the giving away of the products of our forests to the Americans! The 250,000 cords which form the balance of the exportation to the United States (for there were about 300,000 cords exported) came either from the seigneuries or from lots held under letters patent, which cannot be affected by the rules regulating Crown Lands. The right of which I spoke could only affect about 50,000 cords, and yet we are accused of causing the destruction of our forests!

Is it possible to conceive such foolishness?

Can we speak of devastation, when by following the rules in force we have a supply for a least 4,000 years to come? And it must be remembered that this forecast is not the result of an exaggerated optimism. It is based upon the evidence of men well acquainted with the facts, who have been examined by the Colonization Commission. I will take the liberty of quoting here some of the evidence given before the commission, which must convince even our opponents; for it is signed by men who are recognized as authorities. One deposition is of particular interest. It is signed by Sir Wm Van Horne.

Extract of the deposition of Sir William Van Horne, before the Commission on Colonisation, November, 8rd, 1902.

Q How long will this spruce last on your limits of the Laurentide Pulp Co., at the present rate of consumption?

A. The company acquired an usually large amount of timber lands, about 1650 square miles, with the object of having enough so that the annual growth might permanently provide for the requirements of its mills at Grande Mère, and it is believed that by judicious cutting and by careful protection of the timber against fire, the future requirements of the mills at Grande Mère will be sufficiently met.

Q. What system do you adopt with regard to preservation of the forests in your limits?