

forest fires. There is scarcely a mountain or hill in New Brunswick from whose top one may not look down upon some scene of desolation where the ravages of fire are only too evident. And what is true of New Brunswick is true of the other provinces of Canada. Fortunately a bountiful Nature soon clothes these blackened wastes with fresh foliage. But the best parts of the forest are gone; and with them often the accumulation of leaf mould, the product of successive centuries of growth and decay.

The white pine as a timber tree has almost totally disappeared from our forests. The only large grove of red pine that I know of is the one found on a ridge or moraine extending into the great Nepisiguit Lake. The butternut or white walnut is becoming so scarce that it is now almost impossible to be obtained at any price. The same is true of the basswood. Thousands of noble hemlocks have been sacrificed for their bark. Large timber trees of the black spruce, which has been New Brunswick's greatest source of forest wealth, are becoming scarce, and the lumber operators of the present day are clearing out large portions of what remains, and pulp-mills may soon make havoc of the young growth.

Of the species of forest trees in New Brunswick, upwards of forty in number, the above include, with a few others, such as white spruce, cedar, hachmatack, the chief commercial products used for manufactures and export. The scarcity, with the consequent higher price of these staples, has brought into use others of less value, such as the hemlock, hitherto regarded only for its bark; even the "almost useless" poplar is found to be serviceable. Many of our hardwood trees, so called, of which New Brunswick has many fine forests, have yet been untouched with the exception of birches, and are destined as their uses become better known, to constitute a great source of wealth to the province. Furniture made from yellow birch is little inferior to walnut. Rock maple, beech, elm and other hardwoods are also greatly prized for furnishings and other purposes.

A few days since I passed along a road that I had not seen since a child. Then there were some trees of generous size mingled with smaller growth that gave a pleasant shade. Now the whole character of the road seemed changed. There were a few hollow, fire-eaten trunks where once stood noble trees. Blackened stumps lined the road-sides, hidden at intervals by a struggling tangled growth of poplar, birch and spruce. And yet there are fine farms here and there, with well cultivated meadows and a few houses—very few—with shade trees around them. But continued "choppings" and fires had made bare the uplands and bereft them of all semblance to beauty or utility. Tree weeds and blackened stumps are poor substitutes for fine trees along a roadside.