

opportunity presents itself for intelligent and comprehensive action which will, if carried out, be of great benefit to future generations.

The French, Maganatewan, Muskoka, Severn, Trent, Moira, Rideau, Mississippi, Madawaska, Bonnechere, Petawahweh and Mattawan Rivers, with their sources in lakes and swamps, all rise from a common plateau, largely unfit for cultivation, still chiefly in forest, and much of it still in the hands of the crown. They all possess excellent water-powers, many even now near to industrial centres, and up to the present time developed only to a very limited extent. Much of this central plateau is still in virgin forest, but much more has been cut or burnt over, and much partly cleared, on which thousands of families are eking out a meagre and precarious existence on land which would be much better occupied if devoted to the growth of another forest of pine and other trees indigenous to the region.

Those who have studied re-forestry will be agreed that to re-forest on *cleared* land means *close* planting as otherwise the trees form their limbs near the ground and become less valuable as timber. But to re-forest a large area of cleared land in this manner would be beyond the means even of a Government, and therefore the idea suggests itself that the proper course to pursue would be to hold this central plateau as it is at present, (and possibly even to re-forest some partly cleared or cut over districts), to limit the cutting of timber to ripe trees only, under crown supervision; to replant from nurseries, and guard from fires, and in connection therewith to gradually create a system of storages for water near the sources of the various rivers mentioned; lakes already exist in abundance: all that is needed is the construction of inexpensive dams to supplement those that have already been built by the Dominion Government on the Trent Canal, and elsewhere by lumbermen, and to place the control of the flow of water from these various reservoirs in the hands of proper parties, interested in making the most of the water-powers dependant on these lakes for the uniformity of their supply of water.

The question involved in this district thus presents two phases: one, the improvement of water-powers possessing wonderful natural storage, and amounting when developed to 200,000 or 300,000 horse-power, representing at least 1,500,000 tons of coal per year, and on the other hand the upbuilding of an extensive forest district naturally adapted to the growth of pine, but largely unfit for cultivation.

(C) SOUTHERN QUEBEC. The Yamaska, St. Francis and Chaudiere with other smaller rivers, have their sources in the foothills of the Notre Dame or White Mountains, and possess valuable lake storage, and while this district is largely arable and fairly well cleared, there are considerable areas which it would pay