

"Well, as I say, these things kept turning over in my mind and I mentioned them to two or three progressive neighbors. Next meeting of the Farmers' Institute I brought the subject up for discussion and I can't say the members were unanimous one way or the other. We let the thing drop, but every few months I revived it and started circulating literature about 'forest conservation.' To make an uphill story short, in two years I had so many supporters in our district that we drew up a petition and asked the provincial authorities to give us a first-class fire ranger to see that no man set out his clearing fires without supervision, and to make a regular patrol of the nearby timber lands. We got the ranger all right, and he knew his business. He talked forest protection everywhere he went, and gave a hand cheerfully to help a man burn over his clearing with the least possible risk to his neighbor's property. Today we would no more burn down standing timber through carelessness than we would let a herd of cattle into a field of young corn. It's all in the way you look at things. If a settler looks at timber as his enemy, he burns it; as his friend, he protects it.

"Think the thing over! Do your thinking by yourself and I'll guarantee you'll come out at the friendly end, same as I did."