

A Forest Travelogue—Free to Local Speakers

The following is taken from the introduction of one of the Canadian Forestry Association's "Ready Prepared" Lectures which are being sent to local speakers in various parts of the Dominion.

The introductory section serves to bring the audience into sympathy with the subject—"Guarding the Forests." At its close the stereopticon throws upon the screen No. 1 of a set of 56 lantern slides. The manuscript in the local lecturer's hands contains descriptive paragraphs adapted closely to the pictures, which he proceeds to read.

A Nova Scotia school's superintendent wrote of one of these lectures: "The lecture was well received and apparently heartily enjoyed throughout. Our pupil-teachers who saw it should be able to do much to help along the conservation of forest land by their teaching next year. It is an excellent way to make impressive forest truths. I would be obliged if you would notify me when your new lectures are ready for the public."

An Introduction.

"I feel confident that the time devoted to our travelogue will make us better acquainted with a most interesting and benevolent friend, the Canadian Forest.

"We may have met him before in various guises, as the friend of the camper, the guardian of hunter and fisherman, the inspiration of painter and poet, but in our brief time together I would like to widen this acquaintance. I would like you to look upon the forests of Canada with more than a mere personal recognition, to regard them in their fuller utility as a national possession, building up a very considerable part of our commercial strength, co-operating with every constructive interest we have, and asking nothing in return for their multitude of benefactions.

Looking Over Canada.

Were we to take a journey by airship

from coast to coast of Canada, there would be unfolded to our eyes a picture of our national possessions and activities, oddly inconsistent with some of the ideas we form as residents of town or countryside. Limited as our average outlook is apt to be, we reach conclusions colored a good deal by local conditions. Thus, if the question were put to us, individually, what are the biggest and most important activities of Canada, what answer would we make? Assuming that we should all agree on Agriculture for the place of honor, what second choice would be forthcoming? Would not you or I who live, let us say, under the prestige of mighty steel industries in Nova Scotia, hazard an opinion that steel-making ranked with the first of Canada's interests? Or, hailing from a British Columbia town where salmon-packing occupied half the population, would not our sense of proportion expand on the side of the national fisheries? As we mounted mile high over the roofs of cities and farms, the chains of lakes and the dark matting of forests, how the merely local outlook would dissolve away! We would gaze upon a very old Canada, but with a new sense of proportion. Beneath our eyes would loom even larger than ever the immensity of Agriculture from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick through Quebec and Ontario and over the wide plains of the prairies. But the thought would clear the way for a true surprise. We would see manufacturing industries and fisheries and mining take their proper relation in the map of the nation's activities, and make humble obeisance to a mighty older brother—the great Canadian forests.

Nature's Plan for Canada.

No sooner have we satisfied ourselves of the vastness of the nation's forest riches than we indulge our speculations upon another point. What was Nature's scheme in shaping the soil of Canada so that more than half of our total area will profitably grow noth-