

From the experience of Switzerland, Italy, France, Norway, England and other countries, it has become evident, and has been proved, that trees are the friends of man, and not enemies to be destroyed by any means, fair or foul; for they moderate and equalize the rainfall, the temperature, the climate, and promote the even and safe flow of rivers. They protect crops and cattle from the keenness and violence of winds and tempests, and they also afford shelter for those necessary birds and animals which keep insect life within due bounds, besides providing shade and shelter to man.

The stately trees of England grown in parks and hedge rows, are not only ornamental in themselves; but give a character of beauty to the country, to say nothing of the fine quality of the timber contained in their massive trunks, to which storm, sunshine, and air have free access; their very beauty, however, is a snare for their owners unless they happen to be imbued with the mercantile spirit of the age and who are apt to delay, and do delay felling them while in their prime, especially if there are ladies in the case who venerate the sentimental old English ballad "Woodman Spare That Tree." This and other reasons combine to cause a large percentage of splendid timber trees to virtually rot as they stand, and ultimately to have no value whatever, not even realizing the cost of felling and removal.

Thus one passes from waste of one kind to a waste of a totally different kind in different countries, and under different conditions.

The evidence shows that by skilled management, such as would become general were good forest schools established and maintained—schools which would turn out skilled foresters of various grades—districts that cannot now be cultivated with profit as farms, might be made to afford good returns under timber, and probably fruit cultivation, with skilled and careful supervision.

If this has been put to the test by the intelligent foresight of the British Government in India, and will probably come to be considered an advantage in England, where timber cultivation has not hitherto been carried on under the best possible conditions for success, how much more would it advantage a country like Canada that abounds in immense natural forests, which could be rendered highly productive and more profitable under scientific management.

These volumes of evidence to which I have alluded, are well worthy of perusal by Statesmen, Members of Parliament, Government Officers, timber merchants, and all persons interested in the growth and improvement of trees as well as by those using wood in their manufactures; for it behoves the people of all countries to employ their national products with prudence and discretion, by avoiding waste and promoting their best possible use for the general welfare.

Finding that Professor Saunders, to whom was addressed my first letter of introduction, was away from his home in London, Ontario, I rapidly retraced my way sixty miles by railway to Chatham, and visited the hardwood mills of Messrs. VanAllen & Co. there. I found fine samples of straight grown oak, being cut and squared for special purposes; but there seemed a difficulty in disposing of the outside slabs and planks. These, if of good quality, might be sawn up into straight bars, packed in rough crates or cases, and sent to London, England, at small cost, for use in many trades; if sorted according to quality and marked in a manner to be understood both by the seller and buyer, they would readily sell at the carriage auctions, held fortnightly at the Baker Street Carriage Bazaar, London; if they could be sent sound and seasoned so much the better; but in any case the timber should be of good marketable quality, fit for manufacturing purposes, and well worth cost of packing and freight. American makers send seasoned spokes to the English market, which command a good price, and I see no reason why this waste timber, which is at present unproductive, should not in a similar manner find its way into our factories.

Various timber yards were visited at London, Chatham, Ottawa, Aylmer, Hull and New Edinburgh, but at only one (Mr. Cormier) at Aylmer, did I see hard and