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## FORESTRY.

### SECOND PART

#### RESTORATION OF THE FORESTS.

#### CHAPTER I

##### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.

After having shown, in the preceding chapters, that it is the duty of the state and of all our citizens to watch over the preservation of the forests, I proceed in my endeavour to prove that their restoration is a no less important work. If a large part of the public domain is still covered with forests which are as yet almost intact, another part, hardly less extensive, presents to the gazer nothing more than a few clumps of trees half-destroyed by one cause or another; strips of wood gnawed by the flames; whole townships of land unfit for cultivation almost entirely cleared by the axe, and which, in no long time, will become absolutely of no value to the public.

The establishments in the neighbourhood of these places are threatened with a scarcity of lumber and firewood; and the scarcity is not very distant. In a few years, they will find themselves in the same position as the entirely cleared parts of the Dominion. In fact, it is acknowledged that a wood half cleared and left to its own devices is devoted to destruction. On the slopes of the mountains, the rains carry off the soil from the clearings, and leave nothing but the bare rock. The earth is washed away, and gradually borne off, leaving the roots of the nearest trees naked, and their subsequent destruction is not long delayed. In places ravaged by the flames, the trunks of the half-burnt trees soon rot; water collects in the cavities formed by the roots of those which the wind has thrown to the ground; frost raises the surface, and thus loosens the roots of the young trees; if the ill-used wood is near settled townships, the stock break in, devouring all the tender shoots of the young struggling plants, and stamping to death with their clumsy hoofs the naked roots of the older trees, till at last, by a concurrence of all these causes, the maltreated forest entirely disappears.

Now, all this may be avoided, the evil may, perhaps, be

oured, and we are about to see in what way each of us can do his part in the patriotic work.

## CHAPTER II

### DUTY OF GOVERNMENTS AS REGARDS THE RESTORATION OF THE FORESTS.

Governments can assist greatly in restoring the forests to their pristine condition. The action they are called upon to undertake is not a direct action, as in the case of the preservation of uninjured woods, seeing that those which require restoration have generally passed out their control.

Nevertheless, they can assist the work greatly. I will relate an isolated fact which will serve to show how our legislators can attain the proposed end. A Horticultural Society of the Province of Quebec, with very little encouragement from government, left, in fact, almost to its own resources, offered certain prizes for the re-planting of woodlands. A farmer, a competitor for these prizes, carried off the first, after showing that he had replanted in maple 62 arpents, whence the wood had almost entirely disappeared nearly 25 years previously. Well! I want to see government do what has been done by a simple horticultural society with very few funds at its disposal.

In the province of Quebec there are eighty agricultural and five horticultural societies, aided by the government. Besides these, there are thirty nine agricultural clubs organised, and in full operation in the different parishes in the country. Thus, we have one hundred and twenty four associations of husbandmen spread over the whole extent of the province. Societies of the same class, in greater or lesser numbers, exist in all parts of the confederation. Let the governments of the different divisions devote, every year, a certain sum to be distributed amongst these associations, which sum shall be given as prizes to encourage the restoration of the woodlands, and the fruits of this timely liberality will soon be apparent.

For, if a purely local agricultural society has succeeded in inducing farmers to compete for similar prizes in a country where woodlands are still plentiful, how much more likely should we be to succeed, acting, as we should be doing, over the whole country, and with governments taking the initiative, in those places where there remain nothing but a few half-denuded spots, and where firewood and lumber are both on the point of absolutely disappearing.

This, if I do not deceive myself, is an excellent way of inducing farmers to take precautions against a scarcity of wood, and, in that belief, I submit it in full confidence to the attention of our legislators.

## CHAPTER III

### DUTIES OF AGRICULTURAL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES AS REGARDS THE RESTORATION OF THE FORESTS.

In the foregoing chapter, I quoted the example of a horticultural society (that of the county of Islet, in the province