

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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CANADIAN FORESTRY.

"The United States has not a supply of timber for thirty years, and the present sawmill capacity of that country could exhaust the Canadian forests in fifteen years." Thus spoke Dr. Fernow, the eminent Dean of the Faculty of Forestry in the University of Toronto, before the Canadian Club in Toronto last week. There were in his address many remarks that may well give us pause in our present reckless and improvident forest policy, or lack of policy. We extract a few.

To protect the welfare of the unborn citizen—that is the mission of the forester which makes him a world patriot.

Canada has in its timber wealth an asset which will be worth very much more if husbanded and left to future use than if the money derived from its present sale were invested at compound interest for the same length of time.

Are you aware that Canada is destined to have ten times her present population in less time than it takes to grow a sawlog?

One result of the removal of United States restrictions in regard to Canadian wood products will be an enormous increase in activity of Canadian lumbering operations.

The United States has 150,000,000 acres set apart for forest reserve in the West, but not more than half of this is forest land, and they will presently have to spend millions to buy back forest lands in the East. Ontario has started well in the south western part of the Province, in the encouragement of replanting by farmers, but support seems to be necessary by public opinion to keep the Government at it.

The present method of fire-rangings only looks to the protection of the existing sawlogs, and does not look to the preservation of the young growth, which is the more valuable timber to the nation. The present method is the way which kills the goose that lays the golden egg. The future of the timber wealth of Canada depends upon the policy adopted by the Eastern Provinces.

At present, the cutting is done with the sole aim of making immediate profits, and very little attention is paid to caring for the young trees. Ontario is the Province most deeply concerned, for she has more virgin timber than any other Province.

Just now, the water powers of the country are attracting the greatest attention. Yet, at the same time, all that can be done was permitted by axe and fire to impair the value of the water-power resources. An equable flow of water is essential to their value, but this is not to be had without the conservation of the forests.

The estimate of sawlogs, made at Ottawa recently, which Dr. Fernow thought might be accepted as correct for Canada, was 600 billion feet. The consumption of the United States sawmills is 40 billions, and in posts, ties, pulpwood and other forms, 40 billions more. England uses 10 billions, and Canada 5 billions. This would give Canada enough for herself for 100 years. But could Canada shut out the rest of the world? Or, should she not rather shape her forest policy to control the markets of the world? (Applause.)

One great difference I observe between Canada and the United States is that, whereas there the people lead the Government, here the Government leads the people. There the people take the initiative, here it is the Government. He urged the people to be more alive to the need of protecting the forests, and enable Canada to dominate the timber markets of the world, and, in conclusion, suggested that the Government be urged to extend its reservation policy to include all undisposed-of limits; that it organize a reforestation department, and substitute for the ephemeral fire-ranger the permanent forester; that all Crown lands suitable for forestry purposes be segregated; and that all present license-holders be given notice that after a certain date new regulations must be observed on the limits as a condition of the privileges enjoyed by them.

We hope the point of Dr. Fernow's prediction as to the increasing value of timber limits may not be lost upon those farmers who are now cutting down blocks of valuable bush and hauling young sawlogs to the mill.

EDUCATION, CO-OPERATION, AND LEGISLATION.

(Extracts from the address of C. H. Black, retiring President of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, before its recent annual convention in Antigonish.)

THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS.

The year 1907 will probably long be remembered as one of the most trying that farmers of the Maritime Provinces have ever known. A cold, late spring, followed by a wet, cool summer and a cloudy and showery harvest season, all coming in one year, are indeed a combination of difficulties very unusual. We have, however, in most sections of our Province enough for the year's use, and there will be no want. Prices for nearly all kinds of farm products have ruled high, and though the amount of produce we have to dispose of is very much less than usual, the return will be somewhat encouraging; especially is this the case in regard to dairy products.

The fruit-growers of the Annapolis Valley, though they have lost some by heavy gales and frosts, are rejoicing in a good crop of apples and unusually high prices, and, altogether, the returns must be very satisfactory to those engaged in this branch of farming.

EDUCATION.

It appears to me that the two greatest needs of agriculture in Nova Scotia to-day are education and co-operation. Education is needed in the practical things of farm life, such as the breeding and feeding of the different kinds of live stock, the growing of grain and root crops, the care and application of manures and fertilizers, the following of rotations of crops; the setting,

spraying and general management of an orchard, and the hundred other things that go to make the difference between success and failure on the farm.

We have good reason to be proud of the educational work done by our association through its branches, the County Farmers' Associations, by means of our Institute system, and now with the aid of Mr. F. L. Fuller, who has lately been appointed Superintendent of Agricultural Associations, we are strongly in hope that this work will be made more effective. We should aim to have at least one Institute meeting a year in every polling district in the Province where farming is the chief occupation.

The Agricultural College, a child of this Association, is now on a firm basis, and is doing splendid work, and especially does the short course appeal to farmers who are unable to be away from home long enough to take the regular course, and Prof. Cumming and those associated with him are doing a noble work for the future of agriculture in this Province. Remember, it is when a man first gets the idea that he really begins to improve his methods; and how many of our farmers get ideas at Institute meetings or meetings like this, or at the short course, or from reading articles in an agricultural paper, which they have put into practice, and which have made them better farmers and better men?

CO-OPERATION.

The farmers of Nova Scotia should co-operate. Many of the apple-growers of "The Valley" have found it greatly to their advantage to co-operate in the marketing of their apples. In a few sections we find butter and cheese factories, but they are not nearly so numerous as they should be. Fancy fifty farmers, each spending an hour two or three times a week to do the churning, while, if they would only co-operate, one man, with a proper outfit, could do the work as quickly and better. There are many ways in which we could and should co-operate, as in the purchasing of pure-bred stock to improve our herds and flocks, and often small farmers can advantageously co-operate in the purchase and use of expensive and time-saving machinery.

LEGISLATION.

We see other classes co-operating or combining, and unless we farmers do so we are in danger of being crowded to the wall. Too many of us sit by our fireside and complain that the assessment laws bear unjustly on the tillers of the soil; that the customs laws are in the interest of the classes as against the masses; that the sheep-protection law is usually a dog-protection law; that farmers are not represented in Parliament in anything like due proportion to their numbers and the share of the public burden which they bear; and when election day comes around, we walk to the polls and vote like little men for any kind of a candidate, for any kind of a policy, so long as we vote for a political party that bears the name of the one that our fathers voted for. How different other classes do. Manufacturers support the party that supports them; laboring men vote for Labor candidates, and we find Governments catering to these classes, while the farmers, the most powerful of all, vote any old way, and get any old place. Really, I am sometimes forced to the opinion that lawyers are a very generous class, or they would not do as much for the farmer as they do. If we could let Premier Murray know that the farmers would support his party if he stood by us, and drop him if he did not, what would he not be willing to do for us? How long would dogs be permitted to worry our flocks with impunity?

It should always be our aim to improve.

WHAT TO AIM FOR.

Our forefathers cleared away the forests, dyked our marshes, and founded our institutions, and it is our duty to carry on their work of development and improvement. Let us aim so to increase the productiveness of our farms that we can cut in two the amount of money that now goes out of this Province for grain and mill feed; so to increase the number of our flocks and herds, and so to improve our methods of farming that we can cut in two the amount of money which now goes out of this Province for fertilizers; so to increase the number and productiveness of our flocks and herds that we can at least supply our own markets with farm and dairy products, beef and bacon, eggs and poultry; and when we have done that we shall have a prosperous and contented people, and, coupling this with our recognized intelligence as a people and our Christian homes, we shall indeed occupy an enviable position among the Provinces of this fair Dominion.

THE WELCOME VISITOR.

In renewing my subscription to "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," I take pleasure in expressing my appreciation of your up-to-date paper. It is the farmer's best friend at all times of the year. Wishing you every success, I remain,

F. W. YOUNG.

Compton, Que.