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A NATIONAL ENEMY WORTH FIGHTING

The Warnings of Palestine and China

(By Robson Black, Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association)

A traveller recently returned from a tour of interior China and Palestine where the age-old obliteration of forest growth has left hundreds of communities in the depths of poverty made the statement that nowhere in the world could such pitiful desolation of nature prevail. Subsequently he had occasion to make a journey through the wooded district of Canada and the United States. His conclusions were expressed in these words:

"I have looked upon Chinese and Holy Lands wastes where whole ranges of once beautiful mountains had long ago been stripped of trees until they lay barren and ugly and useless, deeply eroded by the heavy rains, and contributing ruin instead of riches to the valleys. But no more pitiful pictures have met my eyes than what I saw in British Columbia and the Eastern Canadian Provinces. If ruthless waste of forests can bring thousands of towns in China and other lands to the edge of wretchedness, the future of Canada must face the same fate unless immediate action is taken."

Canadians, ready as they are to borrow lessons from countries of older civilization, have an opportunity of reading the precise promise of their own conditions in years to come from the performances of such countries as China and Palestine. It is a fact not open to dispute that Canada has destroyed by fire since Confederation from six to eight times as much timber as the lumbermen has cut. Had this enormous fire waste occurred within the borders of Toronto or Montreal investigations would have been immediately started and reforms insisted upon to make recurrence impossible. But because jubilant orators had filled the public mind with tales of our "inexhaustible forests," no one paid attention to the fact that what is "inexhaustible" we do not worry about. What is of no value we do not want to save. But the folly of spread-eagle oratory went threadbare when prices of pine ran from ten up to forty dollars a thousand feet and walnut logs cost \$500 apiece instead of being ordinary firewood at a few dollars a cord. It took the pinch of the purse to waken Canadians to the fact that the forests were slipping out of their hands, and the exhortations against the "lumber trust" could not cover up the real reason that preventable forest fires were shearing down enormous areas of woodland as a

farmer levels an acre of rye. White pine, for instance, instead of covering unending miles of Ontario, as nature intended, has become a comparatively rare tree. There are only one or two stands of virgin pine remaining in this entire big domain. Walnut, once a common tree, is now looked upon as a curiosity and fenced about like a gold mine. The best of the hardwoods used in Canadian wood manufacture are brought from the United States, although such a fact reads like height of absurdity. Prices of lumber are rising in every year of normal demand and it is quite believable that if the present forests are not protected so as to perpetuate themselves our great-grandchildren will be paying \$70 or even \$100 a thousand for pine, and proportionate rates for other woods that should be both common and cheap. When that day comes—and the greatest forest experts on this continent well know we are hurrying to it as if impatient to arrive—the condition of denuded and miserable China will show only a slight aggravation of our own.

Palestine was once described as a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of vine, olive and fig trees. It is to-day largely a desert, because of the destruction of the forests which once covered its hills.

Syria is in the same condition. A forest expert who went fully over a district forty miles square says that this district had once over 150 cities and towns ranging from 3,000 to 300,000 inhabitants. Now each contains a few squalid families. Antioch, which once had a population of half a million, has now but 50,000 people. In those days flourished the famous cedars of Lebanon. To-day the same hills are almost bare and the lowlands are parched and lifeless.

Spain is largely in as bad a condition, and one of the reasons for Spain's national decadence is the falling off of her agricultural industry. The forests have been cleared away, and the inevitable consequences of washed-out and unfruitful valleys has arrived. Much of Southern Europe has reached the same unhappy state, and governments are spending millions of dollars to put dying lands in the condition which a little attention to the forests a few years ago would have saved.

If anyone thinks that Canada's climate or situation somehow guard her against such conditions, let him walk over the waste lands of Norfolk County—ten thousand acres of sand in one block in the townships of Walsingham and Charlotteville. Lambton County has about 40,000 acres of sand lands. Simcoe County has 60,000 acres, and so we could run through Bruce, Northumberland and Durham, and many more counties showing the same trag-

ic patches of Sahara.

What has given these counties and hundreds like them such useless areas? In the first place where nature has taken vengeance by miles of sandy plains, it is in payment for easily preventable human mistakes. Forests were cleared from soil that was never designed to grow field crops. A few years of farming exhausted the richness of the old "forest floor," and left a surface of gravel and sand and boulders. Of course the embittered settler moved on to some other section or continued a life of grinding poverty and wretchedness. Where thousands of acres had been cleared off like this there was no chance of natural reproduction, even when the farm was abandoned (as thousands of them eventually were), so that the land for mile after mile has scarcely a shrub growing, and only the handle of a half buried plough or the skull-like frame of long deserted cottage remain to tell the story of lost values and lost hopes.

There are laws in Ontario, Quebec and other provinces intended to prevent settlement on lands which will grow nothing but trees, but unfortunately the law is better than its application. Innumerable homesteads have been located in recent years by poor, hopeless settlers who depend upon their provincial governments to give them decent guidance. The dreadful lessons of the Ontario sand planes and Muskoka should make the debarment of settlers from non-agricultural lands a policy as iron bound as the prevention of treason.

Of course the great outstanding foe of the forests is fire. To that public enemy this country is devoting about \$1,500,000 a year, and only an insistent public sentiment is required to multiply that sum many times and turn fair protection into adequate protection. Fire razing is probably the most economical and result getting service of all Governmental activities. It works for generations hence even more forcefully than for those living today. Wherever a conscientious forest ranger is seen one may accept his presence as a testimony to the highest governmental wisdom, for upon his labor and that of scores of his comrades depends not alone the cost of next year's pine, but all the fruits of forest perpetuation, the even and full flow of our rivers, the blessings of electrical power, the ease and comfort of living, and the commercial and moral advancement of the whole people.

The employees of the Dominion Atlantic Railway have contributed the price of a machine gun and three men have already volunteered to go with it.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

British Transport Sunk in Aegean Sea

British Transport "Royal Edward" has been torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Aegean Sea; 1350 troops and 200 crew. Six hundred were saved. Troops consisted mostly of reinforcements for the 29th Division and details of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Germans Have Crossed the Bug River

LONDON, Aug. 16.—The left wing of the Bavarian army under Prince Leopold has fought its way across the Bug River near Drohicyn, which lies to the east of Sokolow and is some fifty miles northwest of Brest-Litovsk, according to the official Berlin report. This move forms a slight wedge in the Russian front, which has been virtually straight since Warsaw salient was abandoned.

Field Marshal Von Mackensen also is reported to be pushing back the Russians along the Bug, where the Germans are advancing along the eastern bank of that river. Farther west Field Marshal Von Hindenburg is credited with a successful attempt to break the Russian lines between the Narew and the Bug, after the Norzow River had been crossed by the Germans.

Zeppelins Again Raid the East Coast of England

LONDON, Aug. 13.—Announcement was made today of an airship raid last night on the East Coast of England. Six persons were killed, twenty-three were injured, and fourteen houses were damaged seriously by bombs. One Zeppelin, the announcement says, was damaged, but escaped. The text of the announcement follows:

"Two Zeppelins visited the East Coast last night between 9.30 p. m., and 11.45 p. m., dropping incendiary and explosive bombs in various places, resulting in the following casualties:

"Dead: Four men and two women.
"Injured: Three men, eleven women and nine children.
"All were civilians. Fourteen houses were seriously damaged. The Zeppelins were engaged at some points, but succeeded in getting away from our aircraft patrols. One of the Zeppelins was probably damaged by the mobile anti-aircraft section."

Retreat of Russia Army Was Most Successful

LONDON, August 15.—Having recovered from the check inflicted on him early in the week by the Russians, General von Bulow, commanding that portion of the army of Field Marshal von Hindenburg operating to the west of the River Dvinsk, again has taken the offensive and, according to the official report published by Berlin today, has beaten the Russians in a battle in the vicinity of Kupisko, and pushed them back in a north easterly direction, taking over 200,000 prisoners.

To the south before Kovno, the Russians, according to the same source of information, made an unsuccessful sortie from Kovno, which the Germans are now approaching.

In the Polish sector the various German armies are slowly drawing in their line and advancing from the northwest and south on Brest-Litovsk. While they continue to take comparatively small batches of prisoners they make no claim to the capture of artillery or booty, which is considered by military observers as a fair indication that Grand Duke Nicholas' armies continue their orderly retreat, and that for a long time to come they will be able to prevent the Germans from detaching any part of their army for large ventures elsewhere.

WAR BRIEFS

"I suppose," said Mrs. Malaprop, that they call'em Russians, because they're always rushin about.

One son of the late General Laurie lost his life in South Africa; another in France. His widow and daughter now give a Machine Gun to aid the Allies. Interned Germans in Amherst have gone to work on the grounds of the Highland View Hospital for the purpose of improving and beautifying the property. One of the number is a Landscape Gardener.

A British General says, "Two men with a Machine gun can hold up a brigade, 6000 men."

Rheims hold the record of having been bombarded 288 times. No city, it is believed, can surpass that record.

Cats, dogs, rabbits and chickens have been killed in such numbers by the electrified wires on the Dutch-Belgian boundary that German soldiers have been ordered to bury them.

The private soldiers of Italy get the small pay of three half pence per day. But he is well fed on fruit, macaroni, and other Italian dishes. Cigars are regularly served to them, and frequently wine.

The Kaiser has threatened to bring the charge of treason against all German subjects working in American munition plants. In one plant 600 German-born men are working, but, not one has left.

The Indian Princes under British rule are continuing their gifts for war purposes. One has given 32,000 dollars, and also offered his workshops for the making of munitions. Another has given the same amount, 32,000 dollars. Ambulances, horses, motorboats for Red Cross work, aeroplanes and tents have also been offered, and a Camp for the internment of Turkish soldiers.

The Polish pianist, Paderewski says, "I cannot play while men, women and children are suffering and the world is aflame." He has lost his estates by the war and is now ministering to his countrymen as best he can.

Russia's Saving Banks show an increase of \$900,000,000 since Vodka drinking has been stopped. Most of this amount would otherwise have gone to the Vodka shops.

3,500,000 Bibles have been circulated in Russia by the B. and F. Bible Society since the war began.

Aeroplanes made of a material called cello, invisible at a distance are said to be now manufactured in Germany.

Jails and prisons in Britain are turning out war-supplies. So interested are the prisoners, men and women, that they accomplish about twice as much work as before the war.

Goods valued at 15,000,000 dollars are at the docks of Rotterdam consigned to America. No business with Germany or Austria, says a British Order in Council.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Scammon, St. John have decided to give up the idea of a trip to San Francisco, and, instead, have applied for two Belgian children and will support them.

The Germans took Praseysz, which was easier done that said.

BRIDGETOWN MACHINE GUN

"Stand by your country, now that it has risked its honor, its life, in the most chivalrous cause for which any nation ever went into battle."—Lloyd George.

Previously acknowledged	\$321.00	Mr. Harry Sabears	1.00
Mrs. George Gill	1.00	Mr. A. J. Wilson	1.00
Miss Alice Dechman,	5.00	Mr. Clyde Spidle	1.00
J. S. Lewis	5.00	Mr. Gordon Spidle	1.00
Lewis Ricketson	5.00	Mrs. Willard Fenerty	.45
Mrs. John Chadwick	3.00		
Miss Manners	2.00		
Dr. L. G. DeBlois	5.00		
Mrs. Lessel	5.00		
	\$352.00		

List of Contributors to County Machine Gun in Centre Clarence, Collected by Miss Mildred Wheelock and Mrs. Charles E. Wheeler.

Mr. Amos Rumsey	\$10.00	Mr. Edward Whitman	1.00
Mr. Fred N. Banks	2.00	Mr. Noble	2.00
Mrs. Fred N. Banks	1.00	Mr. Sam Marshall	5.00
Mr. Isaac Banks	1.00	Mrs. Harry Viets	1.00
Mr. R. B. Fisk	5.00	Mr. Clarence Bishop	5.00
Mr. Roy Grant	1.00	Mr. Thomas Smith	1.00
Mr. Halley Wilkins	1.00	Mr. Vernon Leonard	10.00
Mr. Rupert Banks	2.00	Mr. Frank Bezanson	5.00
Mr. Albert Banks	2.00	Mr. Henry Starratt	5.00
Mrs. Chester Barteaux	2.00	Mr. Edward Marshall	5.00
Mr. Lorenzo Elliott	1.00	Mr. Milledge Banks	2.00
Mr. Henry Finnimore	1.00	Mrs. Witham	1.00
The Misses Jackson	.25	Mr. E. K. Leonard	10.00
Mr. Samuel Jackson	2.00	Mrs. E. K. Leonard,	5.00
Mr. Joseph Elliott	5.00	Mr. Stewart Leonard	5.00
Mrs. Cora Elliott	1.00	Mr. Robert Leonard	5.00
Miss Evangeline Elliott	1.00	Mr. Charles Crisp	5.00
Mr. A. C. Chute	2.00	Miss Viola Whitman	5.00
		Mr. William Messenger	5.00

EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED AT MOUNT ALLISON

Advantages for Young Men and Young Women Which Are Not Exceeded in the Maritime Provinces

The Mount Allison Educational institutions at Sackville, N. B., have been doing a worthy work for Eastern Canada during many years. Their steady growth attests the efficiency of the instruction they provide and the wholesome attractiveness of life at the different schools which make up the group of institutions. Young men and young women seeking the advantages of higher education and parents with children for whom they wish to obtain such advantages should give attention to the Mount Allison advertisement in this issue.

The General name "Mount Allison" covers the University, the Ladies' College, the Academy. A number of courses are given at each institution. At the University there are courses in Arts, Science, Engineering, Finance, and Commerce—an advanced commercial course—and a course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Music. Professors of ability make up strong faculties and in the college year which commences this autumn, increased strength is to be given by the appointment of a second Professor of Classics and by the establishment of a Chair of Biology. The expenses of course at the University are low while the residential life made possible by a magnificent men's residence is one of the most attractive and beneficial features of time spent at the institution.

The Ladies' College provides literary courses, courses in Fine Arts under the direction of a member of the Royal Canadian Academy and an exhibitor in Paris, who is assisted by a capable staff, and courses in Domestic Science. Various special courses are also provided by a large and competent staff of teachers.

Connected with the Ladies' College is the Conservatory of Music which has won a name for itself in musical circles in the Maritime Provinces. The Conservatory is under the direction of Professor Fritz Read, an English musician of high standing in his profession.

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Boys' Overalls, Boys' Sweaters

Boys' Stockings, Braces, Handkerchiefs

Men's Armlets 8 cents up

Men's Handkerchiefs 5 cents up

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Men's Drill Pants 95 cents

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Men's Seamless Black Socks 10c pair

Men's Heavy Woolen Socks 16c pair

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