

might be useless, as they say has already occurred in Canada when such a provision was put into force.

The lawyer for the Harmsworths claims that an equally satisfactory explanation exists with regard to every other clause in the bill. His clients, he says, only sought an area extensive enough, and contained within a suitable watershed, to enable the forest growth to be cut scientifically and then reproduced by the most advanced methods of modern arboriculture, while it could be properly policed and protected so that its one substantial asset, from their view point, its standing timber, might be safe-guarded from every vagrant wanderer whose camp fire might destroy it in a single night. The possession of such an area assured to them, and satisfactory legislation to prevent bush fires enacted, together with such concessions as will warrant them in embarking in so large an enterprise in a new and untried country, and they will at once launch out in the establishment of a plant and accessories, which will reach five million dollars in a few years. They have all their plans now perfected for opening up work—engineers and experts engaged to make investigations as to the water powers, flow, ice drift, mill sites, dams and factories; surveyors ready to begin the mapping of the entire watershed; forestry experts to undertake the scientific re-forestation of the waste lands, where such can be done, and wood rangers to assume the task of patrolling the borders and seeing the region kept free from bush fires.

As the Newfoundland Government controls the customs as well as the land revenue, it may expect to obtain through the former source, consequent upon the trade development which the contract promises, a return for the concessions made, but it is hardly a wise Government measure to alienate large areas of the forest lands of the Colony, without at least a provision to ensure a direct revenue to the Crown. Stumpage dues would probably be the preferable method of such taxation, as it would thus only keep pace with the development. The future rights of the Colony should certainly be safeguarded in some way, the opportunity for development need not necessarily be set aside, and it is to be hoped that the statesmanship of the island colony will be strong and able enough to work out a solution that will make for its advancement and its future, as well as present, prosperity.