

fore behooves the people to take a deeper interest in the subject than they have hitherto done and to endeavour, by a study of the principles of forestry and by their practical application, to lend such assistance to the Government as will prevent further deterioration.

It will be a surprise, no doubt, to many of my hearers to learn that since this country was admitted into confederation, scarcely thirty years ago, the timber area has been reduced by nearly one-half. Hundreds of millions of feet of merchantable timber which, not more than twelve or fifteen years ago, were to be found on the Riding and Buck Mountains, has dwindled down to about 40,000,000 feet, according to a recent estimate.

The other belts of timber situated at Turtle Mountain, Moose Mountain, the Beaver Hills, and, in fact, wherever they existed, have also suffered depletion to a large extent. At the present rate at which disafforestation is taking place, in a very few years, if its progress is not arrested, the land will be almost denuded of timber. The consequences to this country of such a condition can only be measured by the dire results which have attended similar conditions in other countries.

In an excellent paper on "Forestry and National Welfare", read before the American Forestry Association a few years ago, the writer vividly pictures the evil effects following disafforestation in some of the older lands as follows:—
"The forests of Palestine and Persia were destroyed, and as a consequence the people sank from a high state of civilization to barbarism, and famine desolated the fertile regions which were the cradle of the arts and sciences when Jericho was the city of palm trees. Around the site of this historic city there is not now a single palm. The rich plains where once waved a sea of golden corn, are entirely deserted, save by roving Bedouins. The terraces, once cultivated for the support of a teeming populace, are parched and desolate; the cities that crowned every eminence are in