

CANADA AS A FIELD FOR INTELLIGENT FORESTRY.

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The production and proper utilization of the unoccupied forests of Canada is a matter that demands the serious consideration of the Canadian people. Very few countries possess so large an area of forest lands as Canada, and while a part of this is fit for and will be brought under cultivation for the growth of agricultural products in the future, a large proportion is unfit for this purpose, and can be more profitably left for the production of timber and to protect the game, which is also an important product of our northern regions.

Before, however, dealing with these unoccupied forests of the north, let us consider for a moment the uncleared lands of the older provinces granted by the Crown for agricultural purposes, and also those under license as timber limits.

According to the census of 1901, 34% of the total area of the farms of the five eastern provinces is still in forest. If this quantity of woodland were uniformly distributed throughout all parts of these provinces, the most exacting economic forestal demands would be met, but this is very far from being the case. In the older settlements in most cases very little woodland is left, the high average percentage being made up by the newer districts, but here too the axe and the forest fires are busy in bringing about similar conditions to those now prevailing in the old frontier countries, in some of which the country is almost denuded, and resembles in bleakness our western plains. It is a well understood fact that a certain proportion of the area of any district should be left in forest. This may vary from, say, 10% to 30%. There are some districts in the older provinces where there is not 5% left, and the result is to be seen in the disastrous spring floods followed later on in the season by droughts, where in former years, before the country was cleared up, neither the one nor the other was ever experienced. This state of affairs is becoming so common in many parts that it is high time that the municipalities should take action to encourage the farmers to leave a portion of their farms in forest by reducing or freeing such wooded areas from taxation or by other means to this end. But the farmer himself will not only be doing good to the community at large, but also best serving his own interests by allowing a certain portion of his farm to remain in forest as a wood-lot. Space will not permit me to deal with the farmer's wood-lot further than to say that there are very few farms which have not a certain percentage of land that is better adapted, and can be more