

quantity of timber on them and their constant exposure to forest fires, form the most advisable class of security for a banker to take, and on the other hand, whilst the mill-owner has some reasonable claim for regard, yet the interests of the country at large must necessarily be paramount to his individual interests and, at any rate, his case is not different from that of every other manufacturer who has in a similar way to provide himself for the future with supplies of raw material. If all timber limits were leased for a limited term only—say for five years—all mill-owners would be placed on terms of equality, and limits would in addition be kept out of the hands of speculators. A result which would almost of necessity also follow the shortening of the term of lease, would be that smaller areas would be purchased. As to the period of rest which should be allowed there is room for discussion. In a paper on the pines, read by Mr. John Langton some years ago before the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, a table was given showing the estimated rate of growth, and from this it would appear that at 100 years in age, the pine is about fifteen inches in diameter, and that the annual increase between that age and 200 years is very nearly one-fifth of an inch. If this be a correct estimate, twenty-five years would not be too long a respite, as even in that time the trees could not increase to a size sufficient for good square timber, though large enough for saw-logs.

It is asserted that in getting out the larger timber there is a great deal of unnecessary and reckless damage done to the younger trees, which might be prevented by more stringent regulations.

To sum up these conclusions :

1. Limits should only be sold for short periods of time, say for five years, and in smaller areas than in former years has been the practice.
2. No trees of a less girth than fifty inches at a height of twelve inches from the ground should be cut, and heavy penalties should be imposed if they are.
3. On reverting to the Government, each timber limit should be allowed to rest, say at least twenty-five years, to enable the younger trees to attain merchantable size.