

these regions to comparative sterility, and was the direct cause of such a fearful calamity as the Johnstown flood of 1889, which swept away almost a whole city and caused the death of 8,000 of its inhabitants. To nothing else than the vandalism of lumbermen, who have destroyed the forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin, can be attributed the recent dreadful inundation of Dayton. From a like source, come the immense floods which cause frequent fatalities and much destruction of property in the village of the Grand River and the Thames River in Ontario, and of the St. Francis and Magog rivers in Quebec. In these and other parts of our fair Dominion there are men still living who remember streams, now completely dry in the summer, which once flowed during the whole year and furnished sufficient power to drive mills. The reason for such a change is that, where the forests surround the sources of a river, the snow and rain pass more gradually into the earth and to the tributary brooks, so that the flow of the river was maintained steadily throughout the year; but now, since the trees are stripped from these hills, the snows and rains are borne down the streams in torrents in the spring, thus leaving them low or completely dry in the summer.

These sweeping freshets not only bring about destruction of property and loss of life, but they have a most deleterious and lasting effect upon the soil as well. In their mad race to the sea, they wash away the richer surface soil, and where this soil is shallow, the land is reduced to such barrenness that it is incapable of either raising grain or again yielding timber. Such desolating changes have been enacted in many parts of Ontario and Quebec within the past hundred years. That region known as central Ontario and which extends from near Toronto to Sudbury is a striking example of the havoc which has been wrought by careless lumbermen and forest fires.

Since such conditions must subsist locally to our detriment, let them subsist generally for our improvement. No matter what the momentary advantage may be to the few whose interests are in favor of the indiscriminate destruction of the forest, we have no right to bring ruin on future generations and desolation to our country, by despoiling it of its God-given heritage.

Thoughtful men are beginning to realize that the foundation of our material wealth is the soil and that the foundation of soil tillage is the forest. The marvellous achievements due to the control of electricity and the relation of water power to electrical energy bring home to those who study cause and effect the truth