

change is that where forests surround the sources of a river, the snow and rain pass more gradually into the earth and into the tributary brooks, so that the flow of the river is more steadily maintained throughout the year; but if the trees are stripped from these hills, the snows and rains are carried away down the streams in torrents in the spring, leaving the streams low or completely dry in the summer. These sweeping freshets not only cause the destruction of bridges and loss of property, but they wash off the richer surface soil, and where this soil is thin, the land is sometimes reduced to such barrenness that it is incapable of either raising grain or again growing trees. Such desolating changes have been brought about in more than one place in the provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario within the past hundred years.

The Source of Power. When we appreciate the growing importance of water-power as a generator of electricity, and when we remember that vast regions of Canada—for example, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island—are devoid of any large deposits of coal, we see the vital importance of maintaining the water-powers of our rivers and streams at their greatest efficiency, if our manufacturers are to thrive in competition with countries having cheap coal. We may thus see what a crime it would be to our posterity if by one supreme act of folly we reduced whole regions of our fertile country to barrenness, and, at the same time, crippled the water-powers on which our future industries must depend.

As past generations of Canadians and Americans have had to clear away the woods to found settlements, and as forests have abounded over an enormous area of North America, many of us have by education imbibed the false notion that trees are an enemy to be got rid of rather than an asset vital to our national prosperity.

In the United States where forest destruction has been carried on to a more disastrous extent than in Canada, people are waking up to the fact that the forest is a national necessity, and, in about forty States of the Union, State legislation has been passed or is being prepared to preserve existing forests and restore those already wasted, especially those at the head waters of the more important streams and rivers.

The Fearful Possibilities of the Press. Among the destructive agents in the wasting of the world's forests in recent years, the printing press stands pre-eminent. The experiments of Keller, in Germany, in 1844, by which pulp was produced by grinding wood, and the further experiments of Watt and Burgess in England in 1854, when pulp was made by a chemical process, resulted in greatly cheapening the cost of paper, especially those classes used for newspapers. The method of converting wood into pulp by mechanical grinding was introduced into the United States about 1870, and in ten years this process brought down the price of news print from 9 cents to 4 cents per lb. Since then the improvement of processes and the extension of the industry have further reduced the price till recently it sold at 2 cents a pound. This cheapening has made possible the enormous increase in the size and circulation of the modern daily newspaper—one of the marvels of the age, and as fearful in its possibilities of evil as grand