

the hundred flourished and preached the common sense claims of Agriculture, not a single forestry expert put in an appearance in Canada until a comparatively few years ago. Any public representation of the quantity of our remaining forests, the innocence of forest fires, and careless lumbering was accepted at face value, for there was none to argue against it. The Forest has been our most shabbily-treated national resource. Demanding quite as much scientific management as Husbandry in order to produce highest dividends it has been treated in the past like a crop of front-lawn dandelions that deserve extermination. Had the growing of forests been looked upon as an ally of agriculture, which it most truly is, we would have applied our brains to it twenty years ago as to crop rotation and pure bred stock.

Putting All Lands to Work.

Crops are crops, whether trees or wheat. There may be a conflict of opinion as to placing oats or wheat on a certain acre in a certain latitude. But there never can be much conflict about the tree crop. It grows on all soils, but is content to grow where cereals would wither. The true conservator, therefore, regards forest crops in this manner: give to the farmer for field crops every acre in the Dominion on which such things will flourish. But about fifty to sixty per cent. of the whole area of Canada is not fit for field crops and will not pay the plowman his salt. Shall we leave that sixty per cent. as desert or put it to work? By all means put it to work—the only work it will do—growing timber.

A good illustration comes to hand from New Brunswick. The Government of that province is carrying out what amounts to a double survey of the whole provincial area now under forest growth. Rather than locate new settlers ignorantly, the authorities will be able to put their hand on nearly every square mile of agricultural soil and know positively that it will bear crops and is worth opening up. They will also possess detailed information as to every acre that will grow nothing but timber and can intelligently mark off such lands from any chance of set-

tlement. Thus, at a stroke, the future agricultural development of New Brunswick is given an important safeguard, the revenues from timber lands are assured, and there need never be enacted the tragedies of misplaced settlement and abandoned farms. Every province of Canada should have a careful soil survey preceding settlement. Until that is done and until entire communities are transported from their present hang-dog surroundings to lands that will give them crops we cannot expect to take medals as agricultural managers.

Our Future Immigrants.

We perceive in these stirrings of Governments some recognition of the Forest's claim for scientific study and a clear-headed plan of business management and development. No farmer wants to think of a timber famine and soaring lumber bills. Neither does he invite the ruin of the great wood-using industries for lack of supplies. In both cases he will be a grievous loser. Yet our total of accessible timber is not large. We have only about one quarter what is possessed by the United States. We have burned about five times as much as we have cut. With a population of a few millions we have allowed our once splendid areas of white pine to be scourged into a remnant of timber berths. Yet, knowing these things, we beckon to Europe for ten or twenty millions of lumber-using immigrants. How shall we supply them, if we are heading for exhaustion on our present basis of population? These are questions none of us can ignore.

The farmers of North-western China took no heed of conservation necessities and to-day one may see stretches of hundreds of miles, denuded of forests and stripped of farms. The farmers of Palestine and Syria, Greece, Central Spain and parts of Italy likewise gave them no heed and were driven out by flood and drought, wind storms, plagues of insects and the scarcity of fuel and the commonest wood supplies for farm and home. In the Empire of India, the mass of people are agriculturists, but wood is so scarce that prices run to \$100 a thousand feet, and the