

Canada has from the beginning of her history been noted for the extent and riches of her forests, and the lumber industry has been one of the leading branches of her manifold activities, and has developed with her growth, forming a principal contributor to the domestic and export trade of the country, giving employment to a large section of the population, developing a healthy and sturdy class of men, and adding to the wealth and prosperity of the Dominion. At the same time the revenue received by some of the provincial governments directly from the forest has been one of the largest sources of income, and has rendered a resort to direct taxation in any other form almost altogether unnecessary. The export of domestic forest products for the last fiscal year was \$36,724,445. In Ontario and Quebec the usual revenue from woods and forests is from a million and a quarter to a million and a half dollars each year, and in the other provinces which control their own timber lands the revenue is steadily on the increase. In New Brunswick, during 1903, it was \$196,500. In British Columbia the revenue for the present year was estimated at \$250,000, and it will probably be much larger. The total value of forest products, as stated by the Census of 1901, is for the census year, \$51,000,000.

European students of forestry, who have been forced by the condition of affairs on that continent to give the wood supply careful thought, have sounded a note of alarm as to the future. We quote from M. Mélard, one of the leading foresters of France:

"At the present moment the forestry situation in the world can be summed up in these words:

*"The consumption of wood is greater than the normal production of the accessible forests; there is in this production a deficit which is for the moment supplied by the destruction of the forests."*

"This situation is very grave. It merits the attention not only of foresters by profession, but of economists and statesmen. Forestry questions which to-day encounter so much indifference, are destined to take, before many years, a capital importance in the consideration of civilized people. May it not then be too late!"

"It is profoundly disquieting to ascertain that 215 million inhabitants of Europe, constituting the nations where commerce and industry have attained the greatest power, do not find enough of wood in the forests of the territories which they occupy.

"If Sweden, Finland, and Canada should supply alone the importations of all the countries requiring manufacturing wood, their normal production would not suffice, and their forest capital would be promptly dissipated."

Dr. Schlich, a leading English authority, discussing the same question, and reaching a somewhat similar result, concludes with the following statement: