

whole Province west of the watershed of the Ottawa to preserve the little timber now remaining for its own use.

We now reach the Valley of the Ottawa, which is the only pine timber region we have, worth giving a moment's consideration to, in discussing the question of supply, and yet from the information I have obtained on the subject, from those whose lives have been mostly spent in the territory, I have every reason to conclude that, at the rate of consumption going on, a single decade will be sufficient time to totally exhaust its resources. And as we will be called on to supply the deficiency shortly to arise in the States the time will be correspondingly shortened.

The valley of the St. Lawrence from Montreal to the gulf never had a great amount of pine timber on it. The St. Maurice held more than the whole territory beside, and that River has been undergoing a course of depletion for so many years that I feel safe in saying it would not now afford enough to supply the whole consumption of the State of New York for a single year.

I would now offer a few remarks regarding our spruce timber supply, a very valuable wood which ranks next to that of pine in the amount of consumption, and enters into competition with the lower grades of that product to a very considerable extent. The supply of this timber this side of British Columbia available to us is confined chiefly to the valley of the St. Lawrence below Montreal, the Eastern Townships, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The Eastern Townships have been run over to a large extent for both local consumption and foreign demand. Every stream in it has been ransacked for the saw mills in the interior, on the River, and at Quebec, and there is not now much left convenient to the floating streams, and especially in the St. Francis district, outside the lands held in fee by private parties. On the North shore of the St. Lawrence the spruce is exhausted for many miles back, and what remains is all now held under license from the Government of the Province, as is also the whole region below Quebec, hardly