

Address on Forestry Education

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Having to speak about forestry education, I will keep myself within limits as narrow as possible, and touch only the general notions which every one should have, the uneducated as well as the educated people.

To the "Canadian Forestry Association" belongs the honour of having first brought about a serious consideration of scientific and economic forestry in Canada. From the first moment of its existence, its zeal has never lessened, and at present its influence has reached even the highest spheres of official power. The proof of this lies in the fact that the present reunion has been called by Right Hon. Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister of Canada. "Canada", he says in his splendid letter to the public "possesses virgin forests which in extent yield to no other country in the world, and European experts think that her woods will enable her, in the future, to rank first among the great wood suppliers of the world." It is to study these resources and, at the same time, the perpetuation of them, that we see gathered here to-day the representatives of our industry, of our ruling classes, of the universities and colleges; in a word, all those who, for any reason, are interested in the question of forestry.

I am very glad to say, first of all, that the forestry question has already interested in a large degree some of our local governments. Ontario took the lead in establishing, inasmuch as circumstances permitted, a forestry service, well organized indeed, and highly appreciated by all those who know it; and it is a pleasure for me to add that Quebec has also taken an active part in this movement.

Last autumn, in response to the wise suggestion of Hon. A. Turgeon, Minister of Crown Lands, our government sent two young French-Canadians to the Yale Forestry School. When they have obtained their diplomas, these young men will go abroad to study on the spot the forestry methods as used in France, Germany, Sweden, etc., and on their return they will be, not only competent judges on all forestry matters, but moreover the pioneers in the teaching of forestry. With time, and very soon, we will have a well organized and complete provincial forestry school, attending firstly to our own local forestry problems, which differ more or less from those of any other country.

We ought, therefore, to praise heartily this wise and far-seeing measure of our local government. For many years we have awaited it, desired it, and the honour of having decreed it will fall to our present ministers. From these facts we may conclude that the opinion of our rulers, either at Ottawa or in the provinces, is won over to the great cause of our forests.

But we should go further, and develop this same turn of mind among all our fellow citizens, educated or not. We should reach the people as a whole, in order to bring home to every one of them sane ideas and to interest them in the forestry question. After that has been done, our rulers, being always sure of the approval of public