

even of the eastern provinces. Perhaps not so much in the Province of Quebec, but still a little in the great plain of the St. Lawrence, and much more in the older parts of Ontario. There is no doubt to-day that the farmers of these two provinces, are suffering from the fact that their forefathers swept the forests out of existence over large areas of what is at present cultivated land. It is not necessary in this country, especially where, as in Ontario and Quebec, stock-raising and keeping is the basis of agriculture, that it is absolutely necessary for the farmer to have abundant pasturage and forests throughout the hot season, as well as a good supply of water for his stock throughout the summer. What is the condition of affairs in many portions of these two provinces? In the old days on the hills and slopes, and even down through the valleys, there were large bodies of woodlands which conserved the moisture and prevented the too rapid melting of the snows in the spring, and great blocks of comparatively swamp land, which held like a sponge the water trickling down through the whole season to supply the lower lands and pastures with a constant unfailing and sufficient supply of moisture for the creeks, rivers and lakes of the country. As these bodies of wood have been cut away and the valleys denuded of trees, the result has been to change entirely the condition of the creeks, streams and rivers, so that while in former days they were constant in their flow, and had an abundance of water throughout the whole season, men living to-day can tell you that the streams are dried up in the hot months of July and August, where in earlier years there was a constant supply of water. The result is that to-day the pastures are dried and burnt in summer at the very time when their supply of food is most necessary for the cattle. While within the memory of many men living there used to be an abundant constant supply of fodder for the animals on the farms, to-day that is not the case, and this unfortunate change has been caused by the wasteful cutting away of the forests. It is time that the farmers and the owners of private properties, wherever they have lost uncultivable land, should immediately set to work to plant that land, and bring it back to its original condition, thus supplying those forest lands, so necessary not only for fuel and to beautify the landscape, but actually to supply them with the moisture necessary for their crops through the summer. And if they do not change their methods in this respect I venture to say to the farmers of Ontario and Quebec that their agriculture will decrease and that they cannot hope to be so successful in the future as in the past.

A word or two specially with regard to this Province of Quebec. We here, in Quebec, have the natural conditions most suitable to prevent the conditions I have just pictured. Our great cultivable section of Quebec Province lies on each side