

to enforce additional and strict regulations with regard to any cutting which may be permitted,—how desirable this would be appears by the considered opinion of a man whose qualifications to make a statement on the subject are absolute, that for every dollar's worth of lumber brought to market in Canada twenty dollars' worth are destroyed by fire.

It is probable that the whole countryside was burned over many years ago,—perhaps at the time of the great Saguenay fire, and that in the barrens already spoken of the soil itself was consumed. An Indian trapper of great age, who died a generation ago, affirmed that these were *en bois vert* in his youth. If his story was true it fixes the time of the burning at an earlier date, and gives convincing proof that a century does little or nothing towards repairing the damage to the *humus*. The moss with which the barrens are now covered burns like tinder in dry weather, nor is it replaced in twenty-five years. Spare a moment then to extinguish your camp-fire, and see that the match with which you have lighted your pipe is out before you throw it down. A little carelessness, when the conditions are ripe, would make of these plains and hillsides a blackened desolation, which the caribou deprived of their winter pastures would be forced to desert.

In point of colouring nothing can surpass the September beauties of this moss-country. The moss itself, in shades of ivory-white, grey, lavender, and in the swales of green and magenta, is divided into parterres by the mountain laurel, Labrador tea and blueberry, every leaf of which becomes a perfect crimson flame. Wild currants and gooseberries are dressed in copper and bronze. Upon the luminous yellow of the birches it seems as if the sun were always shining, while here and there among them an aspen shows translucent green. The little, solitary, white spruces, despising change, satisfy themselves with a flawless symmetry of outline, which makes their sombre black sisters in the background look still more ragged and unkempt. Blue, deepening to purple, covers the distant and yet more distant ranges.