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WORKING FOR POSTERITY.

Making posterity the goat was long a habit of municipal, provincial and federal governments in Canada, says an article by A. Donnell in the October Forestry Journal. It provided an easy way for them to get utilities that they could not pay for and it prevented troublesome criticism by those who did the voting. Of course it was impossible to obtain posterity's assent to this practice, but that little de-nocratic principle caused almost no concern. Surely a dutiful posterity would feel honored in being called upon to assist its forebears in obtaining lu-xuries that were beyond their means and, besides, if the former were lucky, it might have the use of the second-hand utilities in due time.

So it became a common thing when a new street was deemed necessary to charge a generous portion of the cost of posterity. Or if political coniderations suggested a railway through an unsettled section of country, or across continent, posterity was blunderbussed into helping to pay for it. Perhaps this delightful fashion of "passing the buck" might have been "put over" had not posteri-ty's most honorable ancestors exploited and pillag-ed vast portions of the virgin resources which would

be required to liquidate the debts of a prodigal past.

Forests were slashed and burned with a reckless that made Nero's little show look like a nickel movie. Inefficient farming resulted in the literal mining of the fertility from hundreds of thousands of rich farm lands. Inadequate methods of mining minerals and coal frequently led to the permanent loss of millions of dollars worth of these products. Even the fish of the sea and inland waters were wasted by the scowload because of insufficient markets, or because certain species did not appeal to the epicurean tastes of generations of improvid-ent spendthrifts.

Of course, it would be expecting too much to hope that such practices were only of the past. Inherited tendencies die hard. The iniquities of the fathers are often continued into the third and fourth But Dame Nature has her own me thods of making naughty nations be good. The truth in the story of the prodigal is as old as human history. Spendthrift nations, like spendthrift individuals, sooner or later come to the time when they must face about, admit their errors and seek a fresh start, or perish in their sins.

In so far as the gifts of nature are concerned this turning about is synonymous with conservation, or working for posterity. It is the antithesis of the policy of charging the cost of the night's orgy to the future. It is simply recognizing that everyone must eventually pay in some form for his own

Fortunately, there are indications of just such a change of heart in the treatment of certain natural resources in Canada. A generation ago the vast spruce and balsam forests of Eastern Canada were sidered to be inexhaustible. Because men wished to think so, it was the common opinion that good-natured, generous Nature would provide a new for-est long before all the virgin stand was converted into gold.

It was argued, therefore, that a very sizable spruce could be grown in about thirty years argo, natural reproduction would provide new forests in plenty of time. No investigations had been made of

APPLY

the growth of trees in Canadian forests. Instead, the work on European forest plantations which was not a parallel at all, as well as forecasts of natural reproduction in the Adirondacks, carried out by leading American foresters were applied to Canadian conditions. Time has shown that such applications were not in any way justified and as if to make the error still more glaring it is now known that the Adirondack estimates of twenty years ago were, like the report of Mark Twain's death, greatly exaggerated.

In addition, the appearance of hardwoods on cut-over lands, the effects of plant diseases and for-est insects. and the awful wastage due to forest fires were left out of the reckoning altogether. The result is only an illustration of the futility of guess-ing where accurate, painstaking research should ing where accurate, painstaking research should have been applied. Nature never unfolds her se-crets to half-hearted, dilettante students, or to the unobservant woodsman. And so, although the day of Canada's virgin forests is already far spent, defi-nite action has at last been taken to carry out such essential studies in pulpwood forests. Naturally many years will be required to obtain conclusive for trees are not products of a single season.

Forestry, on account of its long-time elements, has been viewed as being properly a state activity. But the governments concerned failed to take adequate action in time. Hence such companies as the Laurentide Company, the Riordon Pulp and Paper Company, and the Abitibi Power and Paper Company have commenced, in conjunction with the Commission of Conservation, a series of such studies on their pulpwood limits in Quebec and Ontario.

Coincidentally, a policy of reforestation has been adopted. During the spring of this year the Laurentide Company planted approximately 1,000,-000 seedlings and the Riordon Company 750,000. The greater proportion of these are Norway spruce grown in American nurseries from seed imported from northern Europe. The provincial nursery at Berthierville also furnished large numbers of these

Small areas of white and Scotch pine were also planted on land where the soil conditions seemed most favorable for their growth. The planting was done in rows four or five feet each way, by gangs of forty to fifty men with the same number of boys to "drop" the seedlings as the holes were made. Such gangs planted from 25,000 to 30,000 seedlings each per day during the short planting season in May. Judging from the results obtained on small plots in previous years, it is expected that from 75 per cent to 90 per cent of the seedlings will grow.

Such a policy is a complete reversal of the old plan of making galley-slaves of posterity. Men now living can hardly hope to harvest the trees that they plant. The whole embodies a principle that merits adoption by everyone who is developing our natural resources, for such resources are not only ours, but they are the property of the future as well. When that is realized, posterity will have greater reason for pride in and gratitude toward its forebears and, if necessary, will pay some of their little bills with better grace and fewer grimaces.

"IN THE DAY'S NEWS"

The Duke of Hamilton, who is selling a part of his art collection by auction in London today, is probably disposing of these possessions for the same reason that common folks do—because he needs the money. The Duke is poor in pretty much everything except titles. Of titles and empty honors he has a surfeit. He is Premier Peer of Scotland, heir male of the heroic house of Douglas, Hereditary Keeper of Holyrood Palace, etc., and traces his lineage back for more than 800 years, but he hasn't money enough to even properly keep up his palace. When he was a young man he was a poor lieutenant in the British navy and there seemed not the remotest chance of his succeeding to the Dukedom, but the death of the only son of the twelfth Duke and a succession of other deaths placed him at the head of the family.

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES.

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ARE BEING CALLED ON.

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