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MR. J. C. LANGELIER.

Mr. J. C. Langelier, who fills the important position of Superintendent of Forest Rangers in the Province of Quebec, is one of the ablest and most versatile of the representatives of a family who have won distinction in the province by their great abilities and eminent public services. He is the brother of Hon. Francois Langelier, now a Judge of the Quebec Superior Court, whose name is regarded so prominently for many years in the politics of Quebec, both Provincial and Federal, as a Cabinet Minister, as a member of the Provincial Assembly and the House of Commons, and as one of the leaders of his party in the Quebec district; also of Hon. Chas. Langelier, now M. P. for St. John's, who was Provincial Secretary in the Mercier Administration, and who is still one of the most conspicuous figures in Quebec public life.

The subject of our sketch was born at St. Basile, County of Bagot, P. Q., in 1845, so that he is now in his fifty-sixth year; yet he is still as active and vigorous and as ready to face any exposure and hardship as most men at thirty. A perfect colossus in size, he towers physically as much as he does mentally above his fellows. Educated at the College of St. Hyacinthe, P. Q., where he went through a complete classical course, he studied law at Laval and Victoria Universities, and was admitted to the Provincial Bar in 1870, but never practised his profession, as his tastes ran rather in the literary groove. He preferred the pen and the atmosphere of the editorial sanctum to the atmosphere of the law courts. He accordingly took up journalism and successfully as well as successively, edited *Le Courrier de St. Hyacinthe*, *La Nation*, *Le Canadien*, etc., besides acting as a frequent contributor to the columns of *L'Electeur*, *Le Soleil* and other well known and influential French newspapers published in the province; in fact, he soon became a power in the press, as well as by his readiness and force as a writer as by his wonderful knowledge of all the facts and information that bore on the questions of the day, and by his untiring energy and industry.

Mr. Langelier's pen has also been as prolific as is versatile. He has published a great many valuable pamphlets on agriculture, colonization, railways and the sources generally of the Province of Quebec and of the Dominion. His sketch of the Province of Quebec, published for the Administration of the then Premier of Quebec, the late Hon. H. Mercier, is still deservedly regarded as the most complete compendium of statistical and other useful information relative to the province, its population, industries and resources of all kinds. And the same praise may be extended to his sketches of the Gaspé district, the Lake St. John country and the northern regions of Quebec stretching to James Bay, which remain the best yet published in regard to those parts of the province. Indeed, it may be said with great truth that he knows every nook and cranny of his native province. Certainly none are better acquainted with its forests, water powers and lumber trade, and none better deserve the nickname of the "walking encyclopedia" which his friends have applied to him. A recent contribution of much value was a paper on "The Lumber Industry in Relation to our Forests," read before the Canadian Forestry Association and published in the April issue of this journal.

Yet Mr. Langelier is a most unassuming and unassuming man. Like his brothers, he might have entered the Legislature or Parliament, but he has repeatedly refused to become a candidate for public honors, and notably so for Bonaventure County in 1890. From 1887 to 1892, he filled the important office of Deputy Provincial Registrar, and it was while occupying this position that he compiled and published the "Description of the Surveyed Townships of the Province of Quebec," which is one of the most useful of the official blue-books of the province, embracing as it does the most precious information regarding all the surveys and explorations made there down to 1890. In 1897 he was appointed Superintendent of the Forest Rangers of the Province, and in that capacity has displayed his usual ability, vigor and activity, besides carrying out a number of reforms, which have largely contributed to Premier



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Superintendent Forest Rangers, Province of Quebec.

Parent's successful administration of the Department of Lands, Forests and Fisheries. It may be added that Mr. Langelier is also an expert in all matters relating to the pulp industry, to which he has given a powerful impetus by his reports to the Department and his writings in the press.

ACCIDENTS IN WOOD-WORKING FACTORIES.

The Inspector of Factories for Ontario, reporting on the accidents during 1900, states that of those recorded the wood-working industries were responsible for 68, as follows: By saws, circular mostly, 25; sticks thrown by saws and planers, 2; planers, jointers, and shapers, 29; veneer cutter, 1; heading machine bursting, 4; embossing machine, 2; fell into mill gearing, 1 (fatal); drawn in and held against a saw, 1 (fatal), and falling off a lumber pile, 2.

The Inspector says: "Saws and planers of different kinds account for nearly all the accidents in this industry, and I have no doubt but that those happening from these machines can be reduced in some measure by proper guarding; but it is difficult to get some employers to see that these machines can to a considerable extent be

provided with guards that will prevent many of the accidents from occurring, though I am still to be convinced that all saws and planers of different kinds can be so guarded that accidents would be impossible. Some employers have told me that they have provided such guards, but their employees soon quit using them. Others have told me that they will discharge any employee who uses a circular saw without the saw guard, and have therefore no difficulty in having them kept in use. One of these is a large furniture manufactory, which has not reported an accident for over ten years, simply because more have occurred. In the large woodworking factories having several circular saw machines, each for different work, it is not difficult to guard them, but in factories not so well equipped with saws, and each saw having to do a greater variety of work, with different thicknesses of lumber and the guards having to be adjusted to that work, which means trouble and more loss of time—the workmen, as a rule, do not favor guards, and the employer does not insist on their use. Some employers take the ground that the time lost in changing a saw guard is a valid objection to its use, and would be held in law as impracticable, as the law only requires protection when it is practicable to give it. An employer may take the risk and do without the guards, but if there is an action for compensation for injuries received from an unguarded machine, and his defence is that it was impracticable to guard it, he must bear in mind that the plaintiff may produce evidence to show that similar machines doing similar work in another factory are guarded, and the plea of impracticability would be of little avail. Then as to buzz planers and jointers, one can cover the gap over the knives, all except just so much space as will permit the timber to come in contact with the knives, which has to remain uncovered, and that is where the danger is, or in putting through a tapering stick like a waggon tongue, the gap must be uncovered enough to allow the widest part of the wood to pass over the knives, which are exposed when the narrow part of the stick is going over the gap. I have known of cases where men have lost fingers in planers when the knives are covered all except one inch to allow an inch stick to pass over, they simply dropped their fingers into that exposed inch of the knives. There is a device made of thin board, the shape of a pear, with the small end fastened to the bed of the planer, the body presses against it and causes it to follow up the pieces of wood passing over the knives, so that the gap is never uncovered. These are in use in three or four furniture factories in Berlin and Waterloo, but I think they are of doubtful utility. Two accidents happened from slivers or sticks being thrown from a saw. These cannot always be avoided. The embossing machine is not a dangerous one, still there were two accidents reported as happening from the one of which happened to a man reaching over his shirt took fire from the gas flame for heating the embossing roll. One happened (fatal) in a saw mill, a foreman was killed, no one saw the occurrence, but it is supposed he was walking on a beam and fell off, striking the shafting, or his clothing was caught in the shafting, which revolves rapidly.

Steinhoff & Gordon have decided not to rebuild their stove mill at Wallaceburg, Ont.