

FORESTRY MEETING.

The Montreal Witness of Sept. 21st, says:—A goodly number of substantial citizens met in the old post office building, 133 St. James street, last evening, for the purpose of considering the question of a Canadian association for the propagation and protection of forests.

Mr. JAMES LITTLE, as the convener of the meeting, stated its objects, and nominated the Hon. H. G. Joly as chairman, and Mr. Stuart Thane as secretary. The nominations having been received with universal applause, the gentleman named came forward and took their respective stations.

The Hon. Mr. Joly then addressed the meeting, calling attention to the numerous draughts being made upon our already depleted forest wealth. Attention had been called to this subject as far back as 1690, under the old French king, but the governors of those days do not appear to appreciate the necessity of taking protective measures. The laws were then rather favourable to forest destruction than to their preservation. For instance, there was a law compelling a man whose forest adjoined a neighbour's fields to cut a belt thirty feet wide along the dividing line to admit of sun and air getting at the neighbor's crops. This had the effect of compelling many forest owners to cut all their valuable timber, and for this reason Mr. Kinkers introduced and passed an act repealing the injurious law. At the recent Forestry Congress here a resolution had been adopted recommending that the matter of forest conservation should be submitted to all the Legislatures on the Continent for their serious consideration. Looking back for a precedent to guide them in the present effort, he had accidentally come across an account of efforts made by Mr. Lovesque twelve years ago, which were well calculated to prove successful, but, unfortunately, they died with their author. That gentleman had organized an association, the condition of whose membership was simply a pledge on the part of each member to plant a certain number of trees each year. The honorable speaker recommended some similar organization to effect the same object now. This had been deemed an appropriate time to inaugurate a movement, in view of the large number of people in the city from various sections of the country. One of the leading objects to be arrived at by the proposed organization was an attempt to propagate timber woods of sorts that nature has not provided us with, and in this connection he referred to his own experiments, very encouraging in their results, with black walnut. He would advise, at all times, to take advantage in view of the presence of the Hon. Mr. Lynch, Commissioner of Crown Lands, the adoption of some system, under the auspices of Government, of replenishing the constantly depleting forest wealth of the Province. To stimulate us we had the example of our republican neighbors, a practical people inclined to look first at the money side of the question. At present no idea was taking more hold of them than that of restocking their forests. He had met with General Sherman, one of their leading citizens, that evening, who, upon being informed of this meeting, had expressed deep sympathy with the movement and would have been present had engagements permitted. The honorable gentleman recommended educating the people upon this subject through the agency of our schools and colleges as one of the very best that could be employed. Referring to arbor, or tree-planting day, now an established institution in the United States, he assured the Government of this Province would favor the institution of such an anniversary here. The spring time would not be favourable for such a purpose here, on account of the precarious nature of the season here, which taxed the farmers' closest attention. Another suggestion he would make was that the ladies should be enlisted in the cause with the all-powerful influence and devotion that they brought to all their undertakings. Our grain trade was all important at present, but we should not forget that once the lumber was our only trade and the beginning of the prosperity of to-day. We ought to feel grateful to that industry for the start made by it, and we also owe it to posterity that we should hand the Province down as rich in woods as we found it. There were

streams in the Province that, eighty or ninety years ago, furnished never failing power to mills, which were now as intermittent in their periods of usefulness as the rains upon which they depended for their supply, and this because their banks were denuded of their former wooded growth. Our climate was undergoing change under the unnatural influences that the present movement was designed to check, but it was not too late to take measures that might save us from such inundations as many portions of Europe are periodically suffering. Mr. Joly was frequently applauded during his address as well as at its close.

The Hon. Mr. LYNCH, Commissioner of Crown Lands, said he came to show his keen interest in the objects of the meeting, and he conveyed the deep regrets of the Hon. Premier of the Province for his inability to attend. He referred in terms of high appreciation to the honorable chairman's action last session in bringing the subject of forestry to the attention of the Legislature, which he rejoiced to say had met with no division of sentiment, and which it had been his great pleasure to support. Those taking part in this movement he assured of the Government's hearty sympathy, and it was a matter in which all could rise above party division. He pledged the Government's approval and support of organized effort in the direction sought. The fortunes of the people, both present and future, were in the hands of the rulers of the day, and they were bound to support projects for the advancement of the same within their jurisdiction. For his part he favoured the organization proposed on this occasion having Provincial rather than aiming at Dominion scope. The question as to what season should be adopted for general tree-planting he recommended to the fullest consideration as being of vital importance.

The audience gave an enthusiastic response to the honorable gentleman's eloquent speech at every point.

Mr. MARLER was in favour of a provincial organization and moved a resolution to that effect. Among other good suggestions, he urged that the forest rangers to be appointed should be educated men and lovers of trees.

Mr. HENRY LYMAN, accepting the question of forest culture and protection as a foregone conclusion, proceeded to express his hearty approval of the suggestion of utilizing the educational institutions to build up healthy public opinion upon the matter. It was the duty of governors and governed to promote the objects in hand. One condition of membership ought to be a reasonable money fee. With reference to the proposed stipulation that each member should plant some trees every year, it should be provided in all cases that the member has land in which to plant. He had studded all his ground with trees, and feared his next duty was to cut some down. Mr. Lyman concluded his practical remarks with a suggestion that a committee of organization be appointed. In response to calls,

Dr. T. STERRY HUNT took the floor. He claimed to be a pioneer in this business. It was thirty-five years since he began the geological survey of this province. In the course of that task he had observed the vast waste of trees then going on in manufacturing potash from them by most extravagant methods, and the primary destruction of valuable timber in that process often fell short of that occasioned by fugitive fires starting from the potash piles, and devastating immense tracts of forests. There were many places where the soil was of such a composition that it took many years to recover from the effects of these burnings sufficiently to yield life to new growths. In Tortue River, flowing into the St. Lawrence, Dr. Hunt gave among other instances of streams within his knowledge which once sustained mills but were now inadequate for that purpose. In his European travels he had seen once fertile valleys, such as the Durois, that from being despoiled of woods had become sterile. He had in his geological report of 1857, protested against the forest waste encountered by him in his explorations, and warned the Government of its certain bad effects. Forests were then regarded as a shelter for bears and other evil beasts to be swept away as expeditiously as possible, and his representations had not borne much fruit.

Mr. BARNARD thought no time should be lost. Let all now feeling an interest set the example in tree planting and induce all they can influence to follow it. He suggested the encouragement of farmers' clubs, with forestry as a main object in their formation, as one of the best aids to the cause. These being useful institutions in a high degree otherwise, their general establishment with this particular object in view would amount to killing two birds with one stone. Another suggestion he offered was the enlistment of school children, who could do a great deal by planting trees about the school-houses, many of which stood badly in need of pleasant shade. Let organization, he urged, be proceeded with at once.

Dr. HENRY HOWARD, after general remarks in line with previous speakers, seconded Mr. Marler's proposal for the formation of a Provincial Association, thus bringing that point squarely forward.

Mr. COSTIGAN moved in amendment that a Dominion Association be formed.

Dr. ALLOWAY seconded the amendment, urging with great force the desirability of our placing the results of home labour before the British and European peoples with a distinctive stamp of their Canadian origin. He pointed out that Canada suffered severely in this respect from Canadian productions being almost invariably classed as American in the markets of the Old World, and this was the case even in the Mother Country, as he knew from personal observation in English ports.

Messrs. LYMAN and MARLER again supported the Provincial idea, the latter giving as an additional argument that the society would require immediate incorporation to work with advantage in the Province.

Mr. BEALL had entered the meeting in favor of Dominion organization, chiefly in view of the great necessity of Manitoba being started in the work. Since listening to other speakers, however, he had altered his opinion, feeling that there was nothing to prevent other Provinces having their own organization, with mutual affiliation between all.

Mr. J. K. WARD favoured the Province as the field of action, because Crown lands were under Provincial control, each Province having a system of management thereof peculiarly its own.

Mr. COCHUE wanted to start as a Canadian institution, so that the commercial metropolis should be the recognized pioneer. The promises made on the part of the Provincial Government should give courage for seeking a more comprehensive scope rather than cause a narrowing down to its constituency.

The Hon. Mr. PERRAULT argued in favour of the Province, as they wanted to give the Government encouragement in stopping the great waste going on in the public lands. We should see that our remaining fifty million acres of timber were not destroyed. In Europe the extent of forests was now being increased rather than diminished. Here the system for destruction of forests was perfect, as the only officers in the woods were the stumpage surveyors, whose duty was to see that the Government got the greatest possible amount of revenue out of the timber limits. There ought to be a system adopted whereby as much forest should be reproduced annually as was used. There would then be a perpetually standing capital of natural wealth, out of which the cost of the system would come many times. Begin at home in our own Provinces.

Mr. BARNARD thought much time was being wasted upon one point, and therefore moved, seconded by Mr. Costigan, that an organization committee headed by Mr. Little be formed, which should decide upon the jurisdiction of the organization.

The CHAIR suggested, with manifest approval, that the main question should be put before organization was proceeded with.

Mr. W. DRYSDALE then suggested that the organization be called "The Canadian Forestry Association of the Province of Quebec," which he considered would combine the ideas of all parties to the discussion. This suggestion was taken as a happy one all around, and having been accepted by the mover and seconder of the main resolution, and the amendment also being withdrawn by its originators, the question was

put to the meeting in the form following and unanimously carried:—

"Proposed by Mr. MARLER, seconded by Dr. HOWARD. That an Association be formed for the purpose of protecting our forests and planting forest trees, and shall be known as 'The Canadian Forestry Association of the Province of Quebec.'"

The CHAIR suggested that the Governor-in-Council be requested to consider the selection of an arbor day for the Province, and another gentleman suggested that the rural municipal councils could best judge of a day suitable for their respective districts. The view was not concurred in by Mr. Lyman, who feared the councils would neglect the matter, and considered the Government proclamation would have more influence.

A desultory discussion ensued while the chairman was selecting a committee of organization, Dr. Alloway did not believe trees would flourish in Manitoba, as at a certain depth the soil was perpetually frozen, which was the reason corn could not be raised there.

Messrs. Baylis and Buchan offered suggestions, the latter that the cause should be brought before the agricultural societies at the current fall exhibitions.

The following committee of organization was announced from the chair:—Messrs. Barnard, Little, Beaubien, Hunt, Perrault, Ward, Lyman, Marler, Drysdale, Lewis, Dr. Howard, Prof. Bovey, Messrs. James, Baylis, Massue, Bryson, Principal Dawson and Mr. Joly, to meet in the same room at half-past nine on Friday, and report at a general meeting.

A short discussion on arbor day then took place. Mr. Perrault suggested the first week in October, and that prizes be given to counties making most satisfactory returns. Dr. Howard thought that time rather early, and preferred prizes for individuals. The chairman said that a law was passed last session, providing for prizes to individuals for tree-planting. On motion of Mr. Perrault, seconded by Mr. Drysdale, it was resolved to ask the Government to have an arbor day instituted in the province by proclamation.

The meeting then adjourned, those present registering their names in an index in an adjoining room.

QUEBEC FORESTRY ASSOCIATION.

The Montreal Gazette of Sept. 23rd, says:—At yesterday's meeting of the committee appointed to consider the organization of this association, there were present, Hon. Mr. Joly, in the chair, Messrs. Wm. Little, Dr. Henry Howard, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, John Lewis, J. A. U. Beaudry, Stewart Thane, acting secretary, Ed. A. Barnard, James Baylis, B. S. Orr, of Cookshire, Geo. W. Stephens, J. K. Ward, J. O. Perrault, G. L. Marler, James Little, Leonard G. Little.

After some discussion it was resolved to name the new society, "The Forestry Association of the Province of Quebec."

The following draft of the constitution of the Association was submitted to the Chairman and adopted.

1st. That the name of the Association be the "Forestry Association of the Province of Quebec."

2nd. The object of this Association is to secure the efficient protection of our standing forests; to promote the re-wooding of denuded districts, and to encourage the selection and cultivation of the most valuable kinds of forest trees that will suit our climate and circumstances.

3rd. Every member of this Association who owns land fit for the purpose must undertake as his contribution to sow or plant, or get sown or planted, annually, at least 25 forest trees; to give them proper care, and to send, at the time appointed, a report of his operations to the secretary.

4th. The contribution of members who are not so circumstanced as to be able to cultivate forest trees, will be \$2 a year, to be applied to the purposes of the Association.

5th. That it shall be the object of this Association to have representative members or branch societies in every municipality in the Province.

6th. The direction of the Association will be