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The Partnership of Farm and Forest

The Old and the New View Points of the Relationship of Timber Crops to Agriculture

By Robson Black.
(Article runs concurrently in "The Farmer's Advocate.")

The Farm and the Forest were born twins, with equal rights in the great Canadian Estate, and not the slightest reason or desire to live in disagreement. What farmer begrudges the service rendered by the silver and coal and nickel mines, or the fisheries on either seaboard? This is indeed a land of many businesses, in which any developer of a natural source of wealth, be it the land, the mines, the fisheries, the forests, is playing benefactor to his generation. We are poor stewards, indeed, if we cannot extract from each of the natural gifts of Providence the maximum wealth and service, without

trying to change agreeable servants into quarrelsome rivals.

I have emphasized the identity of interest as between farm and forest for a good reason. The older days of Canada bred a notion in the minds of men and women that tree life was a cumberer of the ground, that forest fires were a blessing in clearing lands, that the laberman was a "predatory" creature, appropriating some easy money without much effort, and that Canada owned so much timber that nothing could reduce our super-plenty. The Forest, of course, had no spokesman. Where agricultural experts by