

that would answer the requirements and commercial purposes of the country. But, of course, I am strongly in favor of the view that every farmer in the country should plant for his own wants.

*By the Chairman:*

Q. Can you cite any countries in which the destruction of the forests has had a bad effect upon agriculture?—Almost all countries in Europe have suffered more or less from the destruction of forests. Even in those countries where the remaining forests are now maintained in the best state of preservation, there are certain districts that have suffered fearfully. I may mention, in this connection, Switzerland, Germany, France, Italy and Spain. In Spain it is almost impossible, at all events, it would be the work of centuries, to restore such districts to their former productiveness. The slopes of the Southern Sierras, the fertility of which was, at one time, the admiration of Europe, have been entirely denuded; and those who have purchased the land, or the land owners, will not go to the considerable expense it would involve to reforest them. I suppose this is attributable to the fact that, at least, now-a-days, most people do not think it worth while to embark in speculations that will only profit their grandchildren or their great grandchildren. The losses sustained every year by floods alone are something enormous; and those floods may be traced to the destruction of the woods on the head waters of the rivers.

Q. So you think the destruction of forests has a great influence on agricultural productions?—Most decidedly. This is a question that may be viewed from many points, but the best proof I can give you of the influence of the forests upon agricultural productions, would be the steps taken by all the Governments in Europe to preserve their forests, and to enlarge them. They have gone the length of depriving private owners of their rights over their own wood lands in a great many instances. They insist that timber shall not be cut down on the banks of rivers within so many miles of the river bed. They require that no woods shall be cut down on certain hills where they protect a large area of arable land from such and such winds, known to be injurious to the crops in that part of the country. Such forests are made permanent. They can be thinned, but not destroyed. In Germany for instance, wherever it is necessary to cut down any forests, the whole of the neighboring land owners must be consulted; and it is only upon obtaining their consent and upon that consent being ratified by an officer of the Government, that the land owner can cut down his own trees. One reason for this, too, is the fact that the great rivers of Europe have diminished very considerably—I have not the statistics with me—during the last fifty or sixty years. Rivers, which were once navigable for vessels drawing 3 or 4 feet of water, are now not fit to float a respectable barge. This has caused very serious alarm, and much loss, because, of course, water carriage in Europe is very important, and as here, it is much cheaper than carriage by rail, in view of which it is important that the competition which exists should not be removed. This is a consideration which has exercised a very powerful influence in the direction of securing the preservation of the forests, with both the Governments of Austria and Germany.

Q. Do you believe that the destruction of the forest would affect the climate and result in more frequent droughts?—That is inevitable. Without forests you have no surface influence to equalize the temperature. The forests of a country act as conductors; they influence the air currents that pass over them; they attract the moist currents, to what extent, in this last point, is still a matter of discussion and of very serious investigation throughout the experimental stations of Europe. Attached to all the large schools of forestry they have established meteorological observatories, their instruments are placed in the middle and on the borders of the forests, and in the open lands in the neighborhood, so as to be able to form an idea of the extent of the rainfall in the different sections, and, in addition, of the moisture of the soil itself.

Q. What are the defects in our present system of forest management?—I may say that one defect in the forest management of Canada is that there is no management at all. The Governments do not seem to exercise any control over the treatment the forests receive. They regard them simply as a matter of revenue,