

Let us make due allowance for this and estimate that only one-fifth of this land contains timber fit for such purposes. One-fifth of 1,406,200 gives 281,240 square miles.

We have now taken from the total land area under Dominion control the barren lands of the far north, and the prairie land, and then taken only one-fifth of the remainder in our estimate to represent the area of land containing merchantable timber; and we have still left 281,240 square miles. Suppose that the latter area contains only 2,000 feet, board measure, to the acre, or 1,230,000 feet to the square mile over ten inches at the stump, and we have left after all these reductions 359,987,200,000 feet of mature timber, which at the low rate of royalty to the Government of \$1.00 per thousand would be \$359,987,200, which sum represents but a small part of its value to the community and does not include the smaller growing timber which should be regarded as the agriculturist does his growing crop. It is true that much of this timber is not at present available, but it is a portion of the nation's inheritance and the Government as trustees of the state, are in duty bound to conserve it whether it is used by those now living or reserved for future generations.

This vast area represents Canada's woodlot. Let us save it while we may! The greater part of the timber is growing on land unsuited for agriculture, either from its high altitude or high latitude. We have in that great region, which is well described as our subarctic forest belt, a vast tract of such land. The spruce tree abounds everywhere, and as it is the most desirable of all varieties for pulp, it is even now being looked after for that purpose. This region too is the home of a great variety of the most valuable of the fur bearing animals whose existence is dependent on the preservation of the forest. Within it are many great lakes and rivers which, owing to the cool temperature of the water, contain fish of the finest quality.

We have also in those wilds, owing to the rough character of the country, rapids and waterfalls innumerable, which will furnish sufficient power for all purposes at little expense. Of its mineral wealth it is too early to speak, but the example of the Yukon teaches us that the explorer need not confine himself to the lower latitudes, and as timber is one of the great requisites for mining, the forest is necessary to its success.

But here too, important as the forest is for the purposes I have named, it is even more so for its influences in various ways. Time will not permit me to notice at any length, perhaps, the most important of all reasons for immediate attention to our forestry problem, and that is the necessity that the country at the sources of our water supply should be kept in forest. Denude for instance, the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains of its forest growth, and as sure as result follows cause, you will destroy