

ordinary lumbering. He says: "The United States consume every day 25,000 acres of timber; each night we retire with 25,000 acres less of forests than the sun gilded with its morning gold."

What is likely to be the effect on the country as a whole from the gradual diminishing of these forest lands? We all know in a general way what the benefits of a forest are on climatic conditions and on water supply, the latter being of chief importance. There is no lack of examples of rivers and streams all over Ontario which, at one time, kept up a practically even flow of water the year round, but which, owing to the cutting of timber along their courses and especially around the head waters, are now converted into destructive torrents in spring time, often doing an immense amount of damage, and in the summer and fall they become almost dry, and in some cases entirely so. Forests are of great value to a country if we consider them only from an aesthetic point of view, or again from the sportsman's standpoint, but the feature which is of most importance to the country is the large revenue derived from timber and other forest products. If destructive lumbering is allowed to continue unchecked this revenue will gradually decrease year by year as also will the other general benefits at present derived from large forest areas. In order to prevent wholesale forest destruction it is absolutely necessary that forestry principles should be introduced. What is Forestry? you ask. Forestry is a systematic treatment of wood lands which allows of a regular yield being obtained from them at certain intervals without in any way affecting their vigor and health other than in a beneficial way. At first sight it may seem strange to say that by cutting down a part of a forest its value is increased, but if we give the subject a little thought one will see that this is a fact, and especially so in the case of virgin forests. Suppose we take, for example, a tract of virgin timberland. The owner of the land will, if he is a business man, look upon it as so much invested capital, and will expect it to pay him a certain rate of interest or else he would not have spent his money on it. All timber land or any other real estate as a general rule increases in value from year to year, thus giving a certain rate of interest on the capital invested, but, except in very rare cases, this is not nearly sufficient to pay the annual taxes, so that if