

For a time the traffic in wood has enabled the inhabitants to live comfortably. The soil is now exhausted, Larren sand has taken the place of the thin coating of productive soil, which had been deposited by the decaying leaves through years of time. These farms are being abandoned. The forest which supported the inhabitants has disappeared. The only alternative for the settler in such districts is emigration. It is largely from this class that the United States derives its Canadian population. The remedy for this evil lies in the selection of the fertile lands of the Province for settlement, and directing our surplus population to such localities only.

A forest reservation is easy of accomplishment in our province. Nature has set aside large and compact sections of the country specially adapted to forest culture and unprofitable for agriculture. Other sections are eminently fitted for occupation by settlers.

It happens frequently that the surveyed lines of lot include a hill or mountain unprofitable for agriculture, but well wooded with timber of value. The settler on such lots should be allowed to take up sufficient ground in the valley where it is profitable, and clear and till the ground. The mountainous portion should be constituted a forest reserve forever.

The late coal strike has elicited a great deal of discussion on the subject of fuel supply, and it has been stated that the exhaustion of many of the mines is within measurable distance.

If every farm in the Province had a wood lot of ten or twenty acres, our farming population at least would be independant of the great coal combine.

In 1897 the Ontario Government appointed a Commission to enquire into and report upon forest preservation, and in 1898 the Forest Reserve Act was passed empowering the administration to set apart tracts of land in forest