

to be met with in the Western Hemisphere comprising a large range of coniferous and deciduous trees among them those mentioned by the intrepid explorer, Jacques Cartier, when on July 1st, 1534, he first trod Canadian soil in the Island Province. His Relations contain an admiring mention of our beautiful forest trees and in it he enumerates with great exactness the fir, the black, red and white spruce, the stately hemlock, the white and red pine, the larch and the cedar and the maple in four varieties; the white, black, yellow and canoe birch; the wide-spreading beech; the elm; the ash in variety; the oak, the aspen, the cherry and many other inferior species. The axe, the torch, man's cupidity and the utter disregard of the governing power have almost swept away this precious heritage.

Within recent years we have come to recognize our sorry plight; we have aroused the public conscience; we have attempted to quicken the provincial authorities to some action which may save us from further loss, and start us out on the way of retrieval. A Commission was appointed to examine into the case a few years ago, and whilst their report may have little technical value it has by sounding the alarm at least manifested to the apathetic farmer a condition of things he otherwise might never have realized, to wit, that forest growth is essential in most situations, at all events, as a protection to the farm from the chilling winds which sweep over the Gulf and adversely affect all life upon the Island in winter, resulting often in many of the dread diseases which come from exposure to such temperature, and increasing to an extent unknown in the old days, when the country was tree clad, the scourge of consumption, the Great White Plague, now a general menace.

Forest protection is necessary to the farm lands so that water can penetrate the soil and be available for crop production. If the whole farm area is deprived of the advantages which the forest floor affords for the conservation of the water precipitated, the exposed soil hardened by the tramping of cattle and the patter of raindrops, must shed it superficially if it is anywise compact. As a consequence these waters are not only lost to crop production but, gathering into rivulets, carry great quantities of the rich soil with them as well as furrowing the fields with gullies and runs. This carries away valuable plant food, covers the lowlands with silt, damages the roads, and swelling the water courses causes them to break their bounds and dissipate the water, which by subterranean channels should feed them later. In Canada to-day it is estimated that not less than two hundred miles of fertile soil are washed into rivers and brooks annually, and those who examine the public accounts will be surprised at the immense sums of money expended each season in digging out those lost farms from the harbours and