

Let us further urge that the wood reserves thus created, as well as the forest limits intended for the manufacture of timber, be protected against a systematical and complete devastation to which they are subjected by too greedy limit owners, and against fire. Forests can be protected against the aforesaid devastation by enacting regulations to prevent the useless destruction of young trees and the ill-timed felling of trees not having yet reached their full growths. As to protection against fire, the most effectual would be the promulgation of a regulation to compel woodmen to free the land from boughs, chips, shavings, branches, and other wastage, which tend to increase in a very large proportion the number of bush fires. I know that this proposal will be called an impossibility, specially by woodmen; but "the word impossible does not belong to the French language," said a famous French general, and I don't think it belongs any more to the English language.

As to the question of replanting in places where the forest has been destroyed blindly, it is still more difficult to interest the farmer about it than it is to speak to him of forest preservation and protection. His forestry education is yet too superficial to make him apt to understand that there is not only a benefit, but that it is a necessity to replant in denuded regions. In vain we mention the fact that there are foreign countries where, by the complete clearing of mountain slopes, fearful periodical floods are caused, which put under the obligation of being banked up the towns situated on the banks of rivers taking their rise on these slopes to prevent them from being overflowed. Such is the case for many towns situated on the river Loire, in France. We begin even to see the same occurrence in our own country. The river St. Lawrence is now subject to much more considerable floods than it was formerly, and we have to-day the sight of the town of Montreal protected by a dike, the same as the towns of France; yet for us this is only the beginning. But all that is insufficient to convince the farmer that replanting is necessary.

Nevertheless, replanting is necessary. As I just said, the farmer egotistically says that he won't plant trees, the shade of which he will not enjoy. A good farmer told me once: "You want me to plant trees; I am not green; I would be dead a long time before the trees that I would plant now would be large enough to shade my grave." Vainly I tried to convince him that he was young enough to enjoy the fruit of his toil; that trees grow quicker than it is generally believed. None so deaf as those who won't hear. Happily, there is another way of restoring forests, besides the mode of replanting which is so repugnant to the farmer. Almost always in the regions deprived of wood it is an easy matter to bring the land to produce by itself a good growth of trees. It is what I would call the natural restoration of forests, and please allow me to quote here a short part of a chapter I wrote on this subject four years ago in my book, *The Canadian Forester's Illustrated Guide*.

Extensive districts, long cleared of their forest growth, frequently cover themselves again with wood, if care is taken to aid nature in her operations. Generally speaking, plains and damp marshes, where a few wretched stunted trees show themselves here and there, are susceptible of this treatment. Drainage, by means of deep open ditches, of sufficient frequency to admit of the tree growing, if not of perfectly drying the land, is the only thing necessary. The moment that this has been done a multitude of little trees will spring up, which were only waiting for this amelioration to show themselves, and the new growth is usually so prolific and so rapid that we should be inclined to call it spontaneous, did we not know how long seeds would lie dormant in the ground, until all things necessary for their growth were present. The same thing occurs on certain hill-sides, where, protection being afforded against the teeth and hoofs of cattle, their hoary heads soon become crowned with a wreath of luxuriant verdure.

I must state that to-day this natural restoration is well understood by our farmers, and I can prove it by an example. The tourist who travels by the Intercolonial Railway from Quebec down to Rimouski, in the Province of Quebec, goes through a region of one hundred and eighty miles which forty years ago was far the greatest part in forest. This forest has been felled, burnt, and has made place to numerous settlements. But the land forming the slope of the mountain's range at the bottom of which runs the railroad, right through the aforesaid region, having been found unfit for cultivation, has been left by itself to make a second growth of wood. The new trees have been thinned, well taken care of, kept uninjured from the teeth and feet of animals, and now, from Quebec to Rimouski, if you travel through that region during the month of April, you will hear

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