

4. A special police be appointed to look after all these matters.

6.—*What kinds of trees should be generally planted.* Many papers were read on the subject, but one especially good by Mr Bernhard E. Fernow, Slatington, Pa. It is no exaggeration to say that this essay is, so to speak, a *résumé* before the fact of the congress, so complete was it in all that transactions of the concerns forestry.

On Dr Howard's paper, on the hygienic properties of forests, a rather warm discussion arose between the President, Mr Loring, and the learned author. I never saw such a display of science, so much wandering from the point, so many hazardous affirmations of, as yet, doubtful scientific doctrines, in one simple article. Dr Howard is evidently a *savant*, but his forests are as evidently full of brambles and briars. It is little, however, that Mr Loring cares for such trivial hindrances. The honourable Mr Joly excited the interest of the audience by his paper on the sowing of forest trees and the best sorts for planting.

7.—*Connection between forests and the rain-fall.* Papers on this subject were read by Messrs Lyon and Humphrey. They showed that forests exercise great influence over the distribution of rain, and over the floodings of the land by the sudden rise of rivers. Certain districts, formerly fertile, have been reduced to a state of sterility by the clearance of timber, by which long droughts have been produced, and the level of the rivers which flow through the country permanently lowered. A question of hygiene was also raised in connection with this subject.

8.—*Utility of tree-planting along public roads and in towns.* Mr W. Hale, of Sherbrooke, treated this subject from the *dilettante* point of view—(and very well he did it, A. R. J. F.); but there are other considerations which must be thought well over before we can recommend the universal practice of thus ornamenting our long and weary roads. The plan answers well where the roads are made of broken stones, and where the land is sandy; but where clay is the principal constituent of the soil, as it is in most parts of this province, trees would prevent the roads from drying, and do infinitely more harm than good. A question of hygiene, as regards towns, meets us again here.

9.—*Railroad-companies' planting.* Dr Hough, and Dr Warder read, each, a noteworthy paper on this subject. After stating the enormous quantity of wood necessary to furnish the railroads of this continent with the sleepers on which support the rails, and the great consumption of the forests which this occasions, it was suggested that the companies should cause large tracts of land to be planted with trees for their own use. They would, of course, plant only such sorts as would answer their purpose, and thus the rapid demolition of our forests would be arrested. Mr Wilson, of Boston, made some excellent remarks on this question, and cited, among other things, the example of the *American Pacific* line, the directors of which have caused large plantations to be made.

10.—*Fruit-tree cultivation.* Strange to say, in spite of the presence of men like Messrs Beadle, Dupuis, and others, well capable of speaking on this subject, hardly a word was said about it.

11.—*Climatology and care of forests.* These questions were not treated separately, but were mixed up with other points in different papers that were read to the meeting.

12.—*Necessity of education in forestry.* Full treatment was afforded to this subject by Mr Loring and the Minister of Education of the United States. To impress upon youth the importance of forestry being a worthy branch of education, must be the first step, if we wish to arrest the destruc-

tion of our wood lands. This is what the *Journal of Agriculture* is perpetually striving after.

Several other papers were read, and I must not close my report without referring to Dr Chas. Mohr, of Mobile, who read one of the most elaborate essays submitted to the congress.

The honourable Mr Loring, President of the meeting, and Commissioner of Agriculture in the United States, read two papers of remarkable excellence: one on forestry, and the other on agriculture in general.

We now can form a general idea of the subjects gone over by the congress. Let us see what conclusion we can draw from its labours:

1. The land-grants to settlers should be so made, that part of each farm shall be retained in wood in perpetuity.

2. Lumbermen should be compelled to leave standing all trees of less than twelve inches in diameter.

3. Clearing land, and felling timber for commercial purposes, should be so arranged, that the burning of brush and of the chips and waste of the lumbermen shall only take place at certain fixed times.

4. The sale of public lands should be so regulated, that those which are unfit for cultivation shall remain in the hands of government, as forest lands to be out in regulated succession.

5. A special police should be appointed to see that all the forest laws be observed, and to put a stop, as much as possible, to all fires and other kinds of destructive accidents.

6. Replanting to be encouraged, whether by seed or transplantation; and some sort of prizes to be offered to that end.

7. Addresses should be presented to government, inciting the chief ministers to put the suggestions of the congress into operation as soon as possible.

Nobody, looking at this programme, can be tempted to say that the congress whose work it is has been wasting its time. Nothing is more sure, than that good, any great good, must arise from these resolutions wisely pondered and carefully carried into execution. Our governing bodies have the ball at their foot: it is for them to see that it is properly directed to the goal. Be it our part to aid them, by forming associations for the purpose in this province, as the inhabitants of the United States have already done.

Now is the time, while the attention of the public is awakened, to work together for the establishment of a "Canadian Forestry Association." I firmly believe that such a body has a great work before it, a work productive of immense benefit to our country, for by it the destruction of our wood lands by the axe of the improvident woodcutter will be permanently arrested.

Before I finish, permit me to say a word on the Canadians who took part in the deliberations of the congress. If the United States were well represented, the Dominion of Canada, and our province in particular, made no default. Let me begin by naming Mr Joly, president *pro temp.*, who took a very active part in the discussions, and Mr Little, vice-president, to whom is due the thorough organisation of this year's meeting. Besides the honourable Messrs Ouimet and Mailhot, there were present Messrs Taché, Dupuis, Massue, Dr Painchaud, and others, many or whom took an active part in the various discussions. I will wind up by a wish: may we have it in our power to publish for the benefit of our readers the most noteworthy papers which were read before the meeting, for they treat of questions of the greatest possible interest to all those who feel an interest in the preservation of the splendid wood-lands of the province of Quebec. J. C. CHAPUIS.

*From the French.*