

a chronic condition owing to the depletion of American supplies on which we have heretofore depended. Once a coal mine is worked out it is done for. Coal does not grow like trees. True, there is wood in the north country, but wood is such a bulky article that the distance over which it can be transported, save at ruinous cost, is limited. Furthermore, the hardwood area does not extend so very far north, and softwood is a most unsatisfactory material for the supply of heat in winter.

Should be Self-Supporting in Fuel.

Old Ontario should be self-supporting in the matter of fuel, and could be made so in a comparatively few years if land practically valueless for agricultural purposes were devoted to its proper use—the growing of trees. There is not a county in old Ontario in which there is not some land that is useful for no other purpose. Even in some of what we call “good counties” there are considerable areas that are worse than useless with the timber off them—that threaten to become sand wastes, and as such a menace to good agricultural land in the neighborhood. This is true of Huron, of Simcoe, of Durham, and of other counties that might be named.

Other Advantages to be Gained.

With these waste areas reforested the force of the wind would be moderated, water would be more abundant in streams and springs, rainfall would be more dependable, good land would be more productive. Incidentally, by a proper system of conservation applied to the timber growth, an abundant supply of excellent fuel would be assured for all time at moderate cost.

Nor would it be necessary to wait so very long before returns would begin to come in from planting. Beech and hard maple are slow growers, but Manitoba maples grow quickly into useful wood. Willows, planted in marshy places make rapid growth, and when a willow tree is cut down fresh growth will start from the stump. And willow makes good summer fuel at least. Even beech and maple do not take so very long to make their growth. Men in the prime of life can point to maples nearly two feet in diameter that they planted as saplings.

Community Effort Called For.

How is the work of reforesting waste areas in this province to be carried out? It is useless to depend on individual effort for what should be done. Not many men will plant where they cannot expect to reap. Besides, a man may set out a plantation to-day that his successor of tomorrow may look upon as an encumbrance, or at least treat with neglect. Community effort,

either through the province or municipalities, or both combined, is called for.

Here is a work wherein soldiers in large numbers could be given profitable and congenial employment. After their experience in war, where men have been assembled in large numbers, the comparative isolation of farm life will be irksome to most of the returned men. After life in the open the confinement of factory or office will be equally irksome in many cases. Forestry work is done in the open, and considerable numbers can be associated together in that work. The life of the forester is one that should make special appeal to thousands of our men now overseas.

Protection Alone Necessary.

An extensive undertaking in planting is not necessarily called for, at least at the start. There are thousands of acres, with scattered timber, that need only to have cattle fenced out and fire guarded against to become dense forests of valuable timber in a short time. Even where planting is necessary it is not such very slow work. Two men, working at moderate speed, can plant an acres in a day with trees five feet apart each way.

But individual effort can be made to count as well. There are thousands upon thousands of farms with from two to ten acres of land that should be in bush. These for the planting of such farm wood lots can be had, free of cost, from the provincial forestry nurseries. If a thousand farmers could be induced to start such planting next spring they would do a good thing for themselves, a good thing for their neighbors, and their action might stimulate the provincial authorities to undertake forestry work on a province-wide basis.

AIR PATROL IN B. C.

Victoria, B.C.—An average year of fire protection and control costs the province something like \$250,000 and in round figures one-fifth of that amount is absorbed by No. 1 Forest District, which embraces Vancouver localities and Vancouver Island. It was Hon. Mr. Pattullo's proposal to experiment in No. 1 District this year; but in view of the dangerous hazards he sees the necessity of maintaining the full regular service until the practicability of patrol from the air shall have been established. An approximate estimated cost of the first year's experiment—including the major portion of the initial outlays—in No. 1 District is placed at \$40,000, and the suggestion is that the province should contribute half and the Dominion the other half of the expense.