

faces against forest destruction as firmly as other moral evils are faced. Further than this, with us here, each State and each Province has an interest in the action which its neighbouring State or Province takes or neglects to take on this question. Our great rivers have often their fountain heads, or the fountain heads of their tributaries, in one or more States or Provinces, and then course their way to the great lakes, or the sea, through other States or Provinces. Have not those whose lands along the route are watered by these rivers, the cities, towns and villages which are scattered along their banks, and the public which makes use of the steamboats and other craft which ply upon their surface, an undeniable interest in seeing that these waterways are not impaired by the burning or cutting away of the forests at these fountain heads? It is the province of every State to legislate for itself, or to withhold legislation, but in this case, the neighbouring States have a clear right to ask that their waterways and water supplies shall not be impaired or cut off by its neglect to provide proper legislation or proper oversight.

The remedial measures which I would suggest with a view to the preservation and renewal of our forests are in some respects equally applicable to the United States and to Canada.

The leases of timber areas I would restrict to definite periods of five or at most seven years, and when the lease expired, the particular area covered by it should have a rest of say twenty-five years, to allow of the young trees attaining merchantable value. The effect of this would be to largely check speculation in timber limits, and would give ample time to *bona fide* lumbermen to get out all large sized timber. It should be incumbent on each lessee to show his *bona fides* by erecting a mill within a given time either at or convenient to the limits, unless he has a special permit to work the limits for square timber.

The timber limits themselves should be restricted in size to about fifty square miles. This is now done in Manitoba by the Dominion Government. The parcelling out of the timber country into definite, limited areas would enable each Government to more systematically carry out the system of alternate leases and rests for the forests.

The production of square timber should be discouraged, on account of the great waste of material in forming the square log, and because of the additional food for forest fires which this waste material creates.