

adapted to such and such a soil, and pointing out what profits you or your children might derive from planting such and such species, it would afford a great impetus to the cultivation of timber throughout the entire country.

Q. What should be the extent of a station for forest culture?—The work could be carried on, on a very small piece of land. With ten or twenty acres you could try almost every species. However, you would have to select a spot where there would be some varieties of soil.

*By Mr. Fisher :*

Q. Would not such an Experiment Station carry on its experiments more satisfactorily by getting people in the different parts of the country to assist?—It would be the real function of the Central Bureau to do that; it would not do all the work itself but would cause it to be done throughout the Dominion.

Q. There are people of trustworthy experience who would take a sufficient interest in the work to assist such a Central Bureau as that, and at a mere reimbursement of absolute outlay, they would be very glad to make experiments and to report to the head of the Bureau the result of the experiments they make?—There are thousands of people who would be only too glad and too proud to undertake the work.

Q. People who now are making these efforts in a very undirected and disjointed manner?—Most decidedly. Such people have no guidance now, and what slight experience they may acquire is of no advantage to others; whereas if the different experiments and conditions were examined here by some central authority, and disseminated throughout the country it would be to the general advantage, and much good would be done.

Q. I suppose the fact that we are only now ceasing to make war on our forests has prevented the spread of any great interest in forestry and tree culture; in the past we have had to cut down trees to such an extent and so vigorously that it is very hard to get people to understand that the time is past for that kind of work, and that we should really commence to replant?—Of course that has been the root of the evil in this country. The tree has been looked upon as an enemy, and people have from their earliest days been taught to think that if they destroy the tree they are doing a good thing, and are removing so much encumbrance from the ground.

Q. The people who understand forestry have come to the conclusion that that period has gone by?—Yes. In all the well settled sections, and even in the wooded sections there have been enormous losses through injudicious cutting. Had the people acted with any judgment and knowledge they might have kept up a comparatively good supply. Instead of that, they have cut down where there was no necessity for cutting. Besides, instead of cutting only the large trees they have cut away an immense number of small ones. These were used for rafting purposes. Had they been left they would have been of value to the country, and the removal of the big timber would have been of advantage to them, because it would have allowed the light and air to reach them. But, of course, the lumbermen were not concerned in these considerations.

The Committee adjourned.

OTTAWA, 20th March, 1884.

The Committee met, Mr. GIGAUULT in the Chair. Maj.-Gen. LAURIE, Halifax, called and examined.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Would you be kind enough to tell the Committee what experience you have had in agriculture?—I should perhaps first explain how I came to appear before you. I am President of the Central Board of Agriculture for Nova Scotia, and, almost by accident, I received a copy of the questions your Committee has been circulating through the country. I submitted them at once to the Board of Agriculture, but as they had not received a copy of the questions formally, they hesitated to take up the subject. I asked them to prepare answers, as we were desirous of assisting you in every possible way in the enquiries you were making. However, they demurred at