Lessons from Abroad.

A Warning and an Example.

The penalties resulting from a reckless destruction of the forest have already been felt in many parts of Canada in the irregular flow of streams and the erosion of considerable areas of agricultural land. On the other hand Canada has been benefited by the efforts made by the Dominion and Provincial Governments to promote the wise use of our forest wealth. But we must look abroad for the most notable examples of a good or bad forest policy.

The great rivers of Russia, the Don, the Volga, and the Dnieper once ran through great forests. The development of commerce and the introduction of railways and machinery caused a demand for fuel, thus giving value to the "worthless forests," as they had been called. In a comparatively few years it was said in that country, "The machines have devoured the woods." The consequence was that the Volga grew steadily shallower, the Don with its tributaries was choked, and the Dnieper entirely lost some of the great streams which added to its flow. The river Worskla, one of the greatest of these latter, dried up completely from source to mouth, the springs which fed it having absolutely disappeared. The Government and people are now trying by every means available—slow and expensive at the best—to win back the streams and their now sterile beds.

Germany has for centuries been working out a forest administration, which from crude beginnings has evolved into a highly specialized system, in which the annual returns from the forest have steadily increased both in quantity and value, although for the most part such forests are situated on poor, sandy soil or in rough, hilly or mountainous districts. With a population of 240 persons to the square mile, Germany considers it profitable to not only keep her poor lands, at present forested, in that conditon, but to increase the area of such forest lands, even by purchase. The net annual income from her 35,000,000 acres of forest land is $63,000,000. What will Canada's revenue be a hundred years from now?