

Ontario Should Reforest.

[The article which follows comprises a number of excerpts from 'Ontario's True National Policy in Regard to Black and White Coal', a pamphlet by Mr. W. K. McNaught, M.P.P., now a member of the Ontario Hydro-electric Commission. In regard to his views on reforestation, as well as his emphasizing of the importance of Ontario's water-powers which depend so largely on her forests for their equalization and maintenance, the pamphlet is of much interest to foresters.—Ed.]

It has been often asserted by the opponents of the Ontario Government's hydro-electric power policy that, while it might perhaps be all right for the manufacturer, it would be of little or no value to the ordinary citizen.

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I need not do more than point out that, although the manufacturer may primarily be the greatest gainer by this enterprise, it will also beneficially affect every citizen residing in any of the districts where cheap hydro-electric energy is supplied.

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The Coal Situation in Ontario.

The Province of Ontario is unfortunate in respect of its fuel supply. Although it has an almost illimitable supply of pulpwood and other valuable timber, it is entirely without any coal of its own. True, Canada has magnificent coal beds in the Maritime Provinces, as also in the Western Provinces, but these are of little or no value to the Province of Ontario, inasmuch as the charges for transportation would practically put it beyond the reach of our citizens, except as a makeshift during a fuel famine. Practically every pound of coal used in this province comes from the Pennsylvania coal mines, and, unfortunately, the corporations that own the

coal also own the railways over which it has to be transported. With this double-headed monopoly it is self-evident that the citizens of both the United States and Canada have to pay all that the traffic will bear.

The Future Looks Dark.

But bad as is the present condition of affairs in regard to the coal situation, it might be, and indeed it will surely be, very much worse, unless we become alive to the situation and conserve our natural fuel resources.

As I have already pointed out, although we have an almost inexhaustible supply of pulpwood and other valuable commercial timber, our supply of hard wood has been wasted to such an extent that it cannot be counted on in the older settled portions of the Province except as a '*dernier ressort*' during a period of fuel shortage, so that, after all is said, the citizens of Ontario are really dependent for their fuel upon a foreign country, and the supply of this vital necessity may be cut off at any time from any one of a number of causes.

The U. S. Need All Their Coal.

That the people of the United States are becoming thoroughly alive to the coal situation, is evidenced from their appointment of a Conservation Commission, which is now making exhaustive enquiry into the natural resources of the United States and how they can best be dealt with for the benefit of their own people.

But, says some one, if even what you say were true, there is little danger of an exhaustion of the coal supply of the United States for thousands of years to come.

In this, however, I am afraid that