

our forests could not be made reproductive, and at all events that their reproduction would not pay. Why so, any more than in the European countries. It is said, too, that we cannot guard against destructive forest fires. Why so, if France and Germany can preserve their timber unburnt? Under our present system, our forests are made fire traps, but with proper fire-breaks, with other due precautions and with wise regulations properly enforced, our forests might be made as safe as those of Europe.

The scientific forestry of the European continent is of course considerably varied in practice to suit requirements of the different localities, climates, soils, species of timber trees, and other conditions. There is, however, in all cases, the same general aim, that is to produce from the land in forest a constant, steady crop of timber, so as to obtain a continual supply of this necessary material, and an adequate and perennial cash income. These ends are attained as much as possible by encouraging and regulating the natural reproduction. The system in a typical forest may be easily described. In a portion of the forest where the trees are much of the same age and stage of growth, that of maturity or the most profitable time of cutting, there is a general felling, with the exception that at appropriate intervals there are left standards for seed-bearing to cover the whole area. These standards are left for a time till the seedlings can do without their shelter and are then felled. If there are failures in spots, planting is resorted to, and, when necessary, thinning is practised. The young trees grow up of the same age, and making similar progress till they

in their turn reach maturity. Of course the period for such a crop is long as regards that particular section; but this inconvenience is obviated by different divisions of the forest being so treated as to arrive at maturity in successive years, till the cycle is completed, and thus there may be an annual crop from the forest, though not from the same acres. It is easy to understand that this type may be imperfectly attained or may be modified to suit varying circumstances.

This system, it may be remarked, is by no means confined to hardwood timber. In France, and still more in Germany, the forests thus treated largely consist of pine and other coniferous trees. There is no reason why this method should not be successfully applied by a scientific forester to our Canadian forests.

What is first needed—before it is too late,—which will soon be the case, is that large forest reserves should be set apart. Then under trained officers a scientific system of forest culture, of preservation, reproduction and marketing, in due time should be established.

What can easily be effected now, would year by year become more difficult, more costly, and more tedious. Continued persistence in improvidence would at no very distant time see our forests impoverished till there would be insufficient timber even for our own use. And with our departed forests we would find, as has been the experience of many other countries, our streams drying up, our crops diminishing, and our whole country deteriorating.

Canada should take care for her forests before it is too late.

