

the highest development and utilization of those forests the crop must be cut year after year, time after time, so as to be utilized for the benefit of the people of the country.

And therefore, though this great eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains may be made a Forest Reserve, the people of the provinces which require that lumber will not be debarred from it, nor cut out from getting the lumber which is the natural produce from that slope. But this lumber will be cut at the proper time, under strict forestry regulations, in such a manner as to conserve its resources for a future generation, and still supply the immediate necessities of the settlers in the prairies, where lumber is so hard to get.

Let me now say another word in regard to the work of the Dominion authorities. In this eastern part of Canada people can hardly realize the necessities of Forest Plantation. I speak of the farmer, and I know that the farmers of these eastern provinces look upon the tree as their natural enemy. The tree, in the field cultivated for ordinary crops, is undoubtedly a difficulty, and an obstruction, and interferes to that extent with the agricultural operations of the land. But in the old days as our farmers and settlers were obliged to go to the woodlands of the eastern provinces, they could not make a farm without cutting down the trees. That generation which cut the trees down is passing or has passed away, but unfortunately the spirit that imbued them with the idea that the tree was the natural enemy to agriculture, still seems to possess a majority of their descendants, and to-day there are few farmers in these eastern provinces who realize that large bodies of woodlands are the best friends of agriculture in the eastern provinces as everywhere else.

The eastern people, therefore, can hardly realize or understand the necessities of the western farmer on the great untreed plains of our prairie provinces for plantation. Mgr. Bruchesi has instanced one of the most successful experiments at planting on record, even in this Forest Province of Quebec. If they had an opportunity of examining that Oka plantation—and let me say in that, just as in many other things quite apart from the religious aspect of the question, that the Roman Catholic Church has taken the lead in this country and given us an example which should be followed by the whole land—I am sure that the farmers of the older part of this province would receive a very useful lesson as to the necessities and advantages of re-afforestation.

You know, sir, that in the original discoveries of this part of North America, the Missionaries of the Church carried the Cross into the forests, over the plains and up the rivers. We know that later on that the same Church glorified by the blood of its martyrs carried the progress of settlement in our land and