

Canada, the people would starve. The young men, moreover, were too fond of taking to the woods and becoming bush-rangers. Proprietors of farms, having no granaries to store their crops in, were mostly eager to dispose of them in the fall for whatever they would bring.

But, notwithstanding these moral drawbacks, successive governors and intendants kept urging the expediency of developing the resources of the soil to better advantage, and at last they succeeded so far as to produce a surplus for export instead of the former hand-to-mouth system. Of all the intendants, M. Hocquart was the most persevering in his endeavours to inspire the people with this laudable ambition. He did not rest satisfied with words, but gave the example himself. He set up a sort of semi-private, semi-public experimental farm in which he raised all sorts of grains and vegetables grown in the country. He was the first, moreover, who sent to Europe a classified assortment of Canadian products, which was placed on exhibition at Rochefort in the year 1739. It was under his administration that the cultivation and export of wheat first attained a figure of any importance. For more than a hundred years after M. Hocquart's time this province raised wheat in considerable quantities. Before the Rebellion more wheat was raised than twenty years later, and since 1856 there has been a steady decline—the area of production moving westward. It is noteworthy that even sixty years ago the value of the Lake St. John region as a wheat-growing country had already been recognized. In 1855 some of the new parishes were invaded by the rust (*uredo rubigo*), which, with the midge, the Hessian fly, and other insect foes, had caused such ravages to the Canadian wheat crops for a number of years. For the last thirty years, however, the crops in Chicoutimi have shown an annual increase. In 1861 the wheat raised amounted to 10,912 bushels; in 1871 this had increased to 136,249, which, in 1881, had grown to 153,929 bushels. In his work on the Saguenay and the Valley of Lake St. John, Mr. Arthur Buies compares the wheat-growing capacity of the soil around the Lake with that of the most productive districts in Ontario, and gives the preference to the former. Sir William Logan also highly commended it, both for richness and depth. The quality of the wheat is excellent; the extent of the wheat-growing land is extremely large, and there is reason to believe that the district will prove one of the most thriving wheat-producing areas in Eastern Canada.

QUEBEC FORESTRY CONVENTION.

The Hon. Mr. Joly de Lotbinière, who has already done so much to keep alive an interest in the conservation and renewal of our forests, has appealed to his compatriots, through the *Chronicle*, of Quebec, on behalf of the approaching meeting in that city of the American Forestry Association. It is just eight years this summer since the Forestry Convention was held in Montreal. Some of our readers will doubtless recall the series of addresses and discussions which formed the main feature of the proceedings on that occasion. Almost every State and Territory in the United States and every province in Canada sent representatives. Statesmen, men of science, lumbermen, architects, sanitarians, economists, botanists, entomologists, civil engineers, railway men—experts, officials, business men—all who, directly or indirectly, were concerned in the well-being and permanence of what is admittedly one of the greatest sources of wealth on this continent, were present in person or by deputation at the meetings. It would be futile to ignore the existence of another element which, if not represented at the Convention, had its share in the criticism to which it gave rise—the element of distrust. This feeling undoubtedly existed to some extent among a class of persons very largely concerned in the movement and its objects—we mean the lumbermen. Mr. Joly refers to the sentiment that then animated and still, it

seems, animates that influential class of business men, in terms of honest conciliation: "It might be wise," he writes, "to remind the gentlemen connected with the lumber trade who instinctively mistrust us, that the aim of the friends of forestry is not such blind protection of the forest as to let it decay by closing it against the lumbermen. Quite the reverse: we aim at securing for them a continual supply of timber and for the country a continual and ever increasing source of revenue."

These words will, we trust, calm any apprehensions which less guarded language may have had the effect of exciting in the minds of those gentlemen. Possibly, on the former occasion to which we have referred, there was a note of exaggeration in the warnings and of implied hostility to the trade which can only flourish while the axe does its work. But it would certainly be unfair to charge all who gave their countenance to the task of the Convention—a work of foresight and precaution—with any desire to indulge in sweeping condemnations of those who did not accept all their conclusions. That there was justification for the protective movement initiated some ten years ago in the United States and which took organized form in the year preceding that of the Montreal meeting few will deny. That the forests in many parts of the continent had been ruthlessly exterminated, with scarcely a thought as to renewal cannot be gainsaid. And it was equally evident that if the same process were continued without abatement, the end would be the complete denudation of the land surface over vast areas of North America. Whether all the calculations on which the predictions—some of them very confident—were based were entirely correct is of comparatively little consequence. Men of science, who had spent their lives in the study of nature, attributed very grievous results to the removal of the forests from the higher grounds—floods and drought, in turn—not to speak of the manifold inconveniences due to the dearth of timber where it once abounded, and might still abound, had wise and timely precautions been taken. All this has been gone over again and again, for, so wide-spread did the agitation become that, for a time, forestry became a veritable plague in the magazines and newspapers.

In the United Kingdom, the landlords who wished to keep up their parks and happy hunting-grounds were, of course, delighted at this scientific commendation of their practice—heretofore not deemed especially public-spirited. Seeing which, some British scientists of the radical persuasion began to doubt whether forests were always so useful to mankind, and even the rainfall argument had to be reconsidered. But this illogical diversion of the movement from its natural course was only local and temporary, and to-day there is virtually no difference of opinion as to the folly of complete denudation, whether in the Old World or the New. In Canada the forestry agitation has not been wholly fruitless. The Government of Ontario has taken the lead in devising remedies for the mistakes of the past. Its forest commissioner, Mr. R. W. Phipps, undertook a thorough examination of the land still afforested in that province as well as of the denuded land susceptible of reforestation. Mr. A. T. Drummond, of this city, has also given much attention to the subject, as has also Dr. Bell, Mr. Small, and other writers, who have made it a special study. Mr. Saunders, of the Dominion Central Farm, has made a number of experiments which may be expected to prove beneficial, and, in connection with his labours, may be mentioned the planting of clumps of young selected trees in the Western prairie country, some instances of which we have already described. The institution of Arbor Day, though it has not done all that it was expected to accomplish, is still, in a twofold sense, a protest for old as well as young, the significance of which is not likely to be forgotten. But of all those who have actively concerned themselves with the movement, there is none who deserves the thanks of the country more justly than the Hon. Mr. Joly. Both by experiment and by his pen he has helped on the cause. We accept his judgment that the time

has come for another forestry convention in this province. The season is well chosen—from the 2nd to the 5th of September, inclusive. As the secretary of the Association points out, Quebec is always worth seeing, and for those who are not so happy as to dwell there, the trip is sure to be a pleasant and instructive one. A reception committee will see that due courtesies are paid to strangers, and the railroad companies will as usual be generous. Those who wish to read papers or who desire to know what the programme is likely to be, can obtain all the information they require from Dr. H. M. Fisher, 919 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

THE CALGARY AND EDMONTON RAILWAY.

In our issue of June 28 we had the pleasure of announcing that the contracts had been completed for the construction of the railway from Calgary to Edmonton, and from the same centre to McLeod. It may be recalled that, in addition to a land grant of 6,400 acres a mile, the Government made a money grant of \$80,000 a year, to be paid in transport out of the cash subsidy, in the carriage of mails, Indians, Mounted Police, and other supplies—the Government retaining as security one-third of the land grant. Mr. James Ross, who undertook the work, succeeded in placing the bonds of the company and completed all preliminary arrangements with the Dominion Government and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which is to operate the new road for six years. It was decided to begin the work of construction with the least possible delay, and the 21st of July was fixed for the ceremony of turning the first sod on the line from Edmonton to Calgary. The event was appropriately made the occasion of a public holiday—the laying of the corner-stone of the pumping station of the Calgary waterworks combining with the inauguration of work on the road to constitute an unusual and significant attraction for the people of Alberta. Calgary was in gala costume, the leading streets and public buildings being gay with decorations, while flags floating in the breeze testified to the loyalty and enthusiasm of the townspeople. The visitors were from a wide range of territory—Edmonton, McLeod, Banff and Medicine Hat being represented, as well as considerable portions of the intervening districts. The Hon. Mr. Dewdney took the principal part in the ceremony, to that gentleman, as Minister of the Interior, being committed the task of turning the first sod in the new line. Mayor Lafferty presented addresses both to Mr. Dewdney and to the president and directors of the road, and the replies manifested the utmost confidence in the future of Alberta. Besides the Minister of the Interior, Mr. James Ross and Mr. Nicoll Kingsmill, who spoke officially, the Rev. Leonard Gaetz, of Red Deer, whom some of our Montreal readers have not forgotten; Mr. D. W. Davis, M.P., Mr. Smith, of Edmonton, Dr. Brett, of Banff, Mr. Tweed, M.L.A., of Medicine Hat, Mr. Superintendent Niblock, and Major James Walker, one of Calgary's earliest pioneers, gave interesting and cheering addresses. We devote a considerable share of our pictorial pages in this issue to the illustration of the scenes connected with this important event. Our readers who have already been made acquainted with the history, progress and aspirations, natural charms and central advantages of Calgary will, we hope, appreciate this fresh instance of its enterprise and prosperity. The entire celebration was full of promise, and that promise will turn into fulfilment no person who has studied the site of Calgary and the character of the region of which it is the metropolis can entertain any doubt.

A Compliment to Canada.

The national song, "My Own Canadian Home," music composed by Morley McLaughlin and words by E. G. Nelson, of St. John, N.B., has been chosen by the military to be sung at the great meeting of riflemen on Surrey Common, England, the accompaniment to be played by the Band of the London Scottish Regiment.