

possible source of revenue has been made available to the utmost. New Brunswick has still some forests of Pine and Spruce, but the area is, compared with the Ontario and Quebec forests, relatively small, whilst Nova Scotia has, on the whole, but little timber of good merchantable size left, and has correspondingly less interest in the question of forest preservation. The crown lands are under Dominion control only in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, and some steps have been taken to preserve what timber exists there.

As is well known, the system prevails in Canada of leasing from year to year large areas of crown lands under the name of timber berths or timber limits, at an annual rental per square mile. Though the lease is from year to year, yet by custom it is understood that as long as the rent is paid, the lessee may continue in possession indefinitely until he has cut off all the timber he desires. Sometimes the holder is merely a speculator; at other times he is a lumberman, who is keeping the limits in reserve for future working, and thus, frequently, large unworked areas are tied up from year to year by parties who have a quasi right to continue this under the original lease. This makes it difficult to apply new regulations to limits already under lease. Sections of country not yet under lease—and considerable new tracts have in Ontario been rendered accessible by the Canadian Pacific Railway—are in a different position, and governments can readily lay down rules for their future working as timber limits.

Germany, France, Sweden and India have their forests cared for under more or less stringent regulations, and even the small Province of Cape Colony in South Africa has its Forestry Department, under Government control, and is doing a good work that should put us to shame. The forests there are being arranged for scientific working, the fundamental principle being, the conservator says, that the cutting shall not exceed the growth. Why should we in America with a splendid heritage in the pine forests of Maine, Quebec, Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin have been so prodigal and reckless, and have shown so little farsightedness, as to have gone on from year to year for half a century past allowing this heritage to be diminished gradually in value without even an attempt to prevent it! How often are we blind to the future! The Cape Colony Report for 1884 very well puts it that the policy should be pursued of setting our