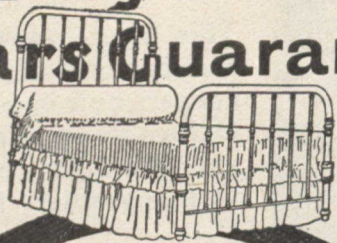


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Preservation of Forests and Game*

By ACHILLE BERGEVIN

THE history of all nations which have seen their forest wealth disappear, and the newer countries which have already seen a vast area of their forest domain depleted, fully demonstrate the great importance that we should not only protect our forests, but that we should also try to increase their area, if it is possible to do so.

The conserving of our forests means at the same time the protec-



Mr. Achille Bergevin.

tion of the fish and game, because the removal of the timber will inevitably cause a partial drying of our rivers and streams, and will mean the diminution of our fish and game. It is then from a triple point of view that efforts should be made to assure the protection of the forests, and as a representative of the Quebec Association for the Protection of Fish and Game, I desire to lay particular emphasis on this point, namely, that our forests already under reserve should be so managed as to guarantee the protection of the fish and game as well as that of the timber.

Our neighbours in the United States are alarmed, and with good reasons, at the rapid depletion of their forests and economists have predicted that twenty-five years will see the total disappearance of their forest domains. With such an example before us, our country owes it to itself to conserve its forest wealth, upon which so many of our people depend for their existence.

It is admitted that Quebec possesses practically the largest wooded domain in America, if we except the province of British Columbia. As the forests in that province are far away from the European market, and are not situated in as good a position as those in the Province of Quebec, or of our neighbours in the United States, it naturally follows that we may rightfully claim the largest available forest lands in Canada.

Laws have recently been passed, which are bringing about good results for the conservation of our forests, and have already created a better understanding between the settler and the lumberman, but further work remains to be done for the better classification of what is to be understood as agricultural land, and what is considered to be timbered soil. When this is accomplished, in my opinion, it will be better for both the settler and the lumber man, because he will be able to work on his own land without interfering with the rights of the other. Then only will their work be of a permanent nature and result in an advantage to both of them.

The pulp wood industry has

* Portion of an Address delivered before the Canadian Forestry Association

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