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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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Protecting the Forests.

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IT is difficult for us to appreciate the extent to which forests have influenced the economy of man and nature. Large areas have been kept forested where pleasure or game was the chief thought. Protection to water sources and mountainous districts make it imperative to keep certain areas forested. Enormous sums of money are being spent in the mountainous regions of southern Europe to replace the forests that were despoiled. We have the forest existing as a source of wood supply. This last function may be more or less achieved in the pleasure or protection forest and is probably the greatest object of forest growth.

The forested areas of any country necessarily become restricted to the non-agricultural lands. There are in Ontario considerable areas of non-agricultural land, cleared either by the lumberman for the wood itself or cleared by the farmer for agricultural purposes. It is with such land that the forester is particularly interested and the reforestation of these lands presents various problems.

One frequently hears the statement that the once forested areas will take care of themselves and give us a second growth if only protected from fire. This general statement contains a certain amount of truth but these areas present various conditions which do not all require the same treatment.

The growth and development of the "virgin" or original white pine with tall, clean stems was the result of generations of competition. Many of these giants of the forest were four and five hundred years old. In the early history of the individual tree it was shaded and suppressed so that the lowest branches died off while