

What is Forestry?

(So much interest has been expressed in the Circular recently issued by the Association entitled 'What is Forestry?' that it is here reproduced.)

What Is Forestry?

Forestry is the science and art of making the best permanent use of the forest.

For What Purpose?

To increase the wealth and comfort of man. It seeks to preserve forests only in so far as these may minister to man's well being.

Does It Demand That No Trees Be Cut?

No. It aims to have every acre of land in the country put to its highest use: Wheat land to wheat, pasture land to pasture; pineland to pine; spruce land to spruce, and so on. It would clear farming lands as soon as that may be done profitably, but it urges that absolute forest land be so cut over that a new and better crop of trees will take the place of the virgin crop.

What Is Absolute Forest Land?

Land that will never grow anything profitably but trees.

What Interest Has Canada in Forestry?

Over half the soil of habitable Canada is fit only to grow trees.

Is Not Lumber Going Out of Use?

On the contrary, in spite of concrete, steel and other substitutes, more lumber is being used today the world over than ever before. The price of timber is constantly rising. Nearly all the countries of the world are importing timber. Canada is one of the very few timber-exporting countries. In her large forest area Canada has a resource which should go on increasing in value every year.

Would Forest Preservation Kill Lumbering?

No. Forestry does not prohibit the cutting of ripe trees any more than agriculture forbids the cutting of ripe wheat. It simply asks that cutting on non-agricultural lands be done in such a way that a new and better crop will come on. It also asks that timber areas be protected from fire and from injurious insects, so as to save both the mature trees and the young forest, the hope of the future. It looks to making lumbering (timber harvesting) just as permanent a business as farming.

Would Not Forests Crowd Out Farms?

No. All the land that the forester asks for permanent forests is land unfit for farming—too poor, too hilly, too stony. The attempt to farm this land results in poverty, abandoned farms, man-made deserts. On the other hand, the maintenance of forests on such lands means a distinct gain to agriculture, especially in regard to moisture conditions, wood supply, wind-breaks, covers for insectivorous birds and evenness of stream flow. Every interest in the country, in fact, is benefited and none injured by retaining forests on non-agricultural lands.

Is Forestry Worth While?

It is. The value of forest products in Canada in their first stage of manufacture (in the sawmill yard) is estimated by the Dominion Forestry Branch at \$170,000,000 per year. This timber is at the base of all our manufacturing. It forms a great proportion of our transportation business, and the maintenance of forests on the uplands keep our streams in even flow, thus preserving our water supplies and water powers. Forests are also great health resorts and game preserves.

Have We Not Plenty of Timber?

We used to think so, but now we know that a few decades will see the remainder of our virgin timber cut. Some authorities think the United States will have exhausted their virgin timber by 1930 or 1935. Then, if they should come to Canada to get their supply, our authorities tell us our timber would last seven years.

What Can Be Done?

The first thing to do is to stop forest fires which consume at a dead loss seven or eight times as much timber as the axe of the lumberman. The great factor in this is the educating of public opinion. When the public is aroused forest fires will stop. Much can be done by disposing of the debris left after lumbering, by screening smokestacks of locomotives, regulating times of settlers' brush-burning, and by patrolling timber lands to reduce the danger from tourists, campers, prospectors and from lightning. When forests are protected, then will come methods of reforestation.