

financial standpoint merely and outside of all auxiliary benefits, the general local public have four times as great an interest in making and keeping a given piece of forest permanently productive as has the lumberman who may chance to own or control it.

Look, for example, at the case of the Lake States, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. In 1890 their total output of white pine was over nine billion board feet, but in 1910 it had sunk to less than two billion, and as a result more than 500 saw-mills, employing many thousands of workmen, have been forced to cease operations—not to speak of many of the dependent wood-working industries—simply because no steps were taken to make the lumbering industry permanent. The science of forestry was completely overlooked.

The people of those states are now suffering because they thus foolishly allowed—considering the part ruinous taxation played, one might say compelled—the lumberman to mine, instead of assisting him to crop, their magnificent pine forests. Mark you, the lumberman suffered little, for unlike the community he could move away, and he is now repeating his mining operations in the Southern States or on the Pacific Coast. And, speaking of Michigan especially, remember that these timber sharks did not for the most part denude agricultural land, but sandy plains and rocky barrens fit only to grow timber, land which is now an unproductive waste of scrub-oak and brambles, land which for years the state has been vainly trying to sell at ten to fifty cents an acre.

‘Oh,’ you say, ‘that misuse could not happen in Canada where the lumberman does not hold in fee simple but is merely a licensee whom we can easily control and force to do right.’ In that saying you voice the all-too-generally accepted fallacy that the lumberman is a sort of felon whom the people must coerce even

to the point of making him lose money, for the sake of the future. That idea is surely a wrong one. A lumberman is a useful wealth producer. He is instrumental in transmitting a natural resource into national prosperity and happiness, only he needs to be ‘wisely regulated.’ The people must form a partnership with him and frankly and fully co-operate according to benefits derived. There is in Canada to-day a great field of opportunity awaiting the genius who will evolve, on equitable principles, a triangular basis of co-operation among the following trinity of interests:

(1) All the people—whether nation or province—sovereign owner of the land, the first factor in production;

(2) The Community—providers of the labor, the second factor in production;

(3) The Lumberman — source of enterprise, capital, organization, the third factor in production.

Such a workable partnership, ensuring conservation by conferring on each interest its proper responsibilities and rewards, is first of all badly needed to-day on our licensed timber lands. Afterwards, its methods would naturally be modified and adapted to the management of unlicensed lands, and to the encouragement of private forestry. Every Canadian should take an intelligent interest in seeing to it that the future is duly considered in the present use and management of all our Crown and licensed timberlands, whether provincial or federal. The deplorable results in the Lake States and in many of our own forests also, should warn us that it is foolish, and most unfair as well, to depend on the licensees—for if those Michigan lumbermen who actually owned their cut-over land did nothing, how much more can licensees be expected to do?