

has at all been attempted, and quite as much, if not more so, than countries which are freely accorded an agricultural name. Professor Johnston, F.R.S.E., who examined the Province carefully, reports that its soil is capable of producing food for five or six millions of people; capable of growing all the common crops on which man and beast depend; and possessing a climate suitable for the growing of crops in quantity and quality not inferior to the average soil of England. It is, therefore, greatly to be desired that, as agriculture must play a great part in the development of this Province when the population of the country becomes intensified, as we know it will in the not too distant future, a sane system of forest preservation be early resorted to, so that the fruitfulness of the future crop-producing areas may not be radically impaired.

The third and most generally fertile Province of Maritime Canada, termed by its admirers "the Garden of the Gulf" and "the Million-acre Farm," has already suffered, and is suffering very considerably every year, from the deprivation of its forest. The lands for the most part have passed from the Crown—only about fourteen thousand out of the one million two hundred and eighty thousand acres, are still in its possession, and these lands have been stripped of everything worth taking away long ago. The farmers themselves are, in the great majority of cases, obliged to purchase coal for fuel from the mines of the neighbouring Province of Nova Scotia, and building material from the New Brunswick mills. The farms thus bared are not at all being cultivated to their utmost extent; the Island is susceptible of maintaining under right conditions a system of the most intensive agriculture, and one which would sustain in comfort a population five times greater than its present one. The portions cultivated—and they are much greater than those of the other Maritime Provinces, comparatively greater than any other portion of Canada comparatively fruitful as they are, would be doubly so if the requisite forest influences were in full play. There are numerous places completely denuded which nature only intended for tree production and the safe-guarding of the splendid water sources with which the Province was originally endowed. One thought given to the insular nature of the country, its situation in the midst of a great wind-swept Gulf and its smallness, will convince anyone that the losses incurred to its husbandry, where unprotected from the blizzards of winter and the drying-out winds of summer, as well as the erosion which spring freshets and fall rains occasion, must be very serious indeed.

Little more than one hundred years have sufficed to transform this Province from a complete forest to its present bare and exposed condition. Then its flora was of the most engaging