

Forest Conservation.

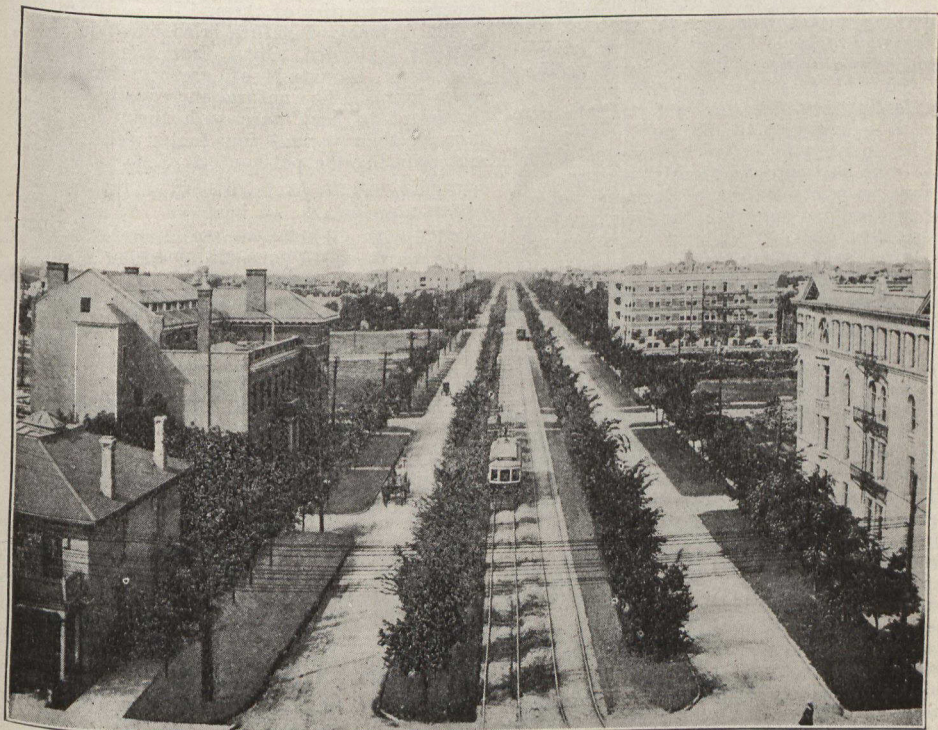
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The existence of the Canadian Forestry Association is evidence that Canada is at last awakening to the awful losses she has suffered during the last few years through the destruction of her fast-diminishing forest resources. It is probable however that few of those in whose hands the Government of the country at present rests fully realize the real magnitude of that loss, the mere figures as to the devastated acreage convey so small an idea when placed alongside the square mileage of the Dominion of the regions still believed to be under growing timber. Nature is given the credit of being capable of making good that loss in years to come. If every generation looks at it in this light I would not give much for the forest assets in the near future. Nature is not getting half a chance at present. I am no pessimist, I believe she is going to get her opportunity; but it will be in the face of strong opposition. This will arise because of the indifference of

many of the people to anything beyond their own immediate interests.

That Canada will always be more or less liable to forest fires through unavoidable occurrences must be accepted as a foregone conclusion; but not half the present losses can be said to be occasioned in this way. It is perfectly fair to base this estimate on observation in a given district and the demeanor of settlers in the matter.

In theory few will oppose forest conservation; they do not wish to stand in the way of Tom or Dick getting 75 a month as rangers. True, neither may know the difference between a white and black spruce; but 'that does not affect their suitability for the berth.' Besides, the rangers are occupied on Crown lands and will not molest people. If the losses were only those started on the last named—allowing for unavoidable accidents—there would not be so much to complain about; but in a vast number of cases fires originate on settled lands and



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