

order of predominance. The high percentage of spruce is due to its prevalence in the northern interior and plains region.

### 60 Per Cent Waste Land

Of the 250 million acres of land in British Columbia, a very large percentage of it, 60 percent, is estimated to be waste land from the standpoint of agriculture or forestry due either to its high altitude or to local site conditions. Of the area which is capable of producing forests, not

over 8 percent, has any agricultural value. Unfortunately, the forests on a greater part of this forest land have been destroyed by fire, only 35 percent of the forest land carrying stands of commercial value at present. These forests reproduce well naturally, and if protected from fire will supply wood crops aggregating many times the present cut of one billion feet per annum. It is estimated that of the species suitable for the manufacture of pulp this province can supply 250 million cords.

## THE CHRISTMAS TREE TRADE

### Is Government Regulation of Cutting Spruce and Balsam for Decorative Purposes Practicable; the Children's Side

Every year the Canadian Forestry Journal is in receipt of many letters from readers protesting against the ruthless cutting of young spruce and balsam trees for purposes of Christmas decoration. The Association in the past has taken objection to the export of millions of these trees to United States purchasers explaining that the Canadian farmer, from whom they were taken, was paid only a few cents each and the country was often a substantial loser in having so much young growth destroyed.

It is beyond doubt that the cutting of Christmas trees becomes in some cases an act of vandalism as was recently reported from Hamilton where hundreds of young spruces from a semi-public park were cut down and peddled about the city.

That there is another side to the story is suggested by the following comments of Bristow Adams in "American Forestry," and readers of the Journal are invited to express an opinion as to how any Government regulation could lessen the waste of evergreens each year for these decorative uses, without clashing with an undoubtedly vigorous public sentiment ready to resist the elimination of the time-honored right to brighten Christmas day with a festive tree.

"Every year some one starts a cru-

sade against the Christmas tree idea, and every year I wonder why they do not do the same thing against the Easter lily and the football-game chrysanthemum. In Michigan there is a nursery which grows Christmas trees as a regular annual crop; in New England the farmers cut hundreds of thousands out of their fields for the city boys and girls, some of whom rarely get in any closer touch with trees than they do in this holiday season. Every year the dairy farmers in the hill counties of New York welcome the chance to get rid of the spruces which work into their pastures and use up space that might be growing grass for the cows. The more our family has thought about the use of Christmas trees, the more we have been in favor of them.

"One person says, 'let's all do without Christmas trees; or, if we must have them, let every one plant two trees for the one that is used on Christmas.' Now that might be a good idea in some few places. But how about the many children who live in tenements in the crowded parts of the cities? Are they to go without this one glimpse of greenness, or attempt to make two trees grow in a paved court-yard? Even in the large and elegant apartment houses the mighty janitor could not provide