



[Courtesy "Sunshine," Montreal.]

In the Woods: On the Road to the Dump.

Cost of Forestry in different Countries.

(By H. S. Graves Chief Forester, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, in the Report of the U. S. National Conservation Commission.)

A comparison of the expenses of forestry in different countries is necessarily unsatisfactory, because the forests differ in character and there is a very wide difference in economic conditions. In Europe systematic forest management was introduced many years ago. The forests are thoroughly organized, and the expenses of administration represent their maintenance, protection, and operation. In this country the work of forest organization has only just been started. Even our National Forests have only been roughly explored, and we have only estimates of the standing timber growing in them and its value. There are almost no roads, only a

few satisfactory maps, insufficient demarcation of boundaries, very few fire lines, and the work of construction of headquarters, ranger cabins, telephone lines, etc., remains as yet to be carried out. Almost no working plans have been made for our National Forests, and the life history of the trees must be more completely studied before satisfactory methods of silviculture can be devised. Practically all of the work of organization of the forests remains to be done.

Other conditions enter in also to affect a comparison of expenses. In America and India there is great danger from fire, and large sums of money must be spent on providing