

Prizes Stimulate Rangers

IT IS possible that in seeking the road to "efficiency," our government and private forest services have not taken sufficient account of the human instinct for "prize winning." Some months ago Mr. F. J. D. Barnjum offered forest ranger prizes amounting to \$825 for the Provinces of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

In New Brunswick the prize of \$250.00 was awarded to H. C. Lynn, Kedgwick, though the decision in this Province was very close owing to the keen rivalry for this prize, which has resulted in a well organized effort by the entire force to keep forest fires down to a minimum, resulting in the smallest fire loss in New Brunswick for many years. The results obtained have been of such great value to the Province and the men have responded so heartily in this fire protection work that Mr. Barnjum felt that an extra bonus should be paid to the second and third best record, though only one prize was offered in each Province, and he has accordingly forwarded a check for \$50.00 to E. Baldwin, West Bathurst, and for \$25.00 to W. R. Davidson of Five Fingers, N. B., as a slight acknowledgement of their splendid efforts in protecting the forests of New Brunswick from fire.

In Quebec the prize of \$250.00 was awarded with the unanimous consent of all concerned to the widow of Albert L'Heureux of St. Michel des Saints, Berthier County, not only from the fact that he was one of the best Rangers in the Province but from the added reason that he lost his life in the performance of his duty; having given his life for his country just as much as if he had died on the battle field, for the saving of trees is the equivalent to saving life, for without trees life could not exist.

In Nova Scotia the prize of \$250.00 was awarded to W. J. Scott of Middle Musquodobit who had the best fire fighting record for the season.

Commenting on the success of the competition, Mr. G. H. Prince, Provincial Forester of New Brunswick, writes in part as follows:—"You would be astonished by the wealth of splendid suggestions that have come in. The prize has stirred up efforts and interest almost in all parts of the province, and many of the suggestions that have come in in regard to improving fire protection are already being carried out and others are being planned for. It is simply splendid, the way many of our fire wardens entered into the spirit of this contest and gave it their hearty support, even if only one could win the prize."

A SEAMLESS HEEL MOCCASIN

A notable feature of the boot shown in the S. & H. Borbridge Co's. advertisement which appear elsewhere in the current issue of the "Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine", is that it was used with the utmost satisfaction by the entire party making up the recent Steffanson Expedition into the Far North. Hunters, trappers, lumbermen and others who are constant users of boots of this type will welcome the news that there is now obtainable a moccasin with a seamless heel which will do away with annoying rips, sore heels that generally follow constant rubbing against a bulging seam and will keep the water out, being guaranteed absolutely waterproof at all times.

The S. & H. Borbridge Co., Ltd., Ottawa-Winnipeg, will be pleased to forward any further information on application.

Depleted Forests of China furnish Opening for Australia

By Edward S. Little, Australian Trade Commissioner

THE wooded areas of China have been so drastically dealt with that they now only exist in remote districts which are difficult of access. Forests have entirely disappeared except in these remote regions, which are found chiefly in Manchuria in the north-east section, western part of Hunan, Kweichow, North-western Kwangsi, and parts of Fukien and Yunnan.

From Fukien are exported to other parts of China large quantities of Foochow poles together with other softwood timbers; the value of the wood so exported amounts to between four and five million taels annually. The Commissioner of Customs at Foochow, in a recent report, estimated that in the next decade or so the trade will disappear owing to the exhaustion of the forests. The Chinese improvidently cut the trees before they are fully grown, and do not undertake the task of replanting them.

From Hunan and Kweichow there come large rafts of soft wood timber floating down the Tungting Lake and thence down the Yangtze River to the various cities and towns on the banks of the river, and finally, to the coast. These rafts are valued at about \$10,000,000 annually.

I have seen forests in Yunnan which were being burnt in order to clear the hillsides for other purposes. The means of communication over lofty mountain ranges without water or rail by which to bring the timber to rendering it unprofitable to cut the trees and transport them to the great cities.

How Michigan is Paying the Piper

MICHIGAN'S wood-using industries are now paying the economic piper for the State's quarter century timber debauch, according to a statement just issued by the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture, whose experts are engaged in a study to determine the effects of forest devastation on population, agriculture, industry, and economic life in that State.

The forest of Michigan, the statement continues, as a result of devastating fires and reckless cutting are now so greatly depleted that they produce chiefly fuel-wood and other minor forest products instead of high-grade lumber on which the State's main industries depend. The building trades and the automobile and furniture industries of Michigan must largely import their supply of high-grade lumber from other States instead of growing it at home.

For the most costly classes of wood, such as those used for automobiles, furniture, and building, Michigan goes as far south as the Gulf and as far west as the Pacific; it imports all told a little more than a billion board feet of lumber and timber annually, of which 400,000,000 come from the Gulf Coast region and nearly 180,000,000 feet from the Pacific Northwest. For these amounts the State pays not only an enormous freight bill but also the high prices incident to constantly dwindling forests.

The reforestation of Michigan's denuded lands would after a few decades, say forest experts, not merely stop these costly importations but go far toward re-establishing the State's lost leadership in her once greatest industry, lumbering, and put it upon a permanent basis.