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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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EDITORIAL

Conserving Forest Resources

Times were when Canadians believed that our timber resources were well nigh inexhaustible. We used to figure that northward of the rather limited strip of agricultural land which we were cultivating along the Southern border, there were vast forested areas sufficient to supply our needs for timber for all time to come, or at least until some satisfactory substitute could be found to take the place of wood in building and general work.

We were carried away by the vastness of the area of our hinterland to the north and believed formed of the quantity these forested tracts are Great Lakes. timber will practically be exhausted.

maximum of production and from now on there will be an annual dicture in the timber cut, and a yearly increasing deficiency that will have to be supplied elsewhere.

after their supplies were depleted, but Canada's forest resources according to the Superintendent of Forestry, would be exhausted in less than fifty years if we allowed ourselves to follow this course. What we need in this country is a forest policy that will permit us to make the largest possible use of our existing resources, supply, that will safeguard the interests of the future and curb somewhat the selfish devastation of the present. Such a policy would cost live stock and depending on his own district considerable money. But it would be money well spent, money spent to better advantage than in the building of a navy to fight an imaginary foe or in the training of men for purposes of war. One of our statesmen discovered this summer that what the West wanted was box cars and not battleships. Probably it will be learned sometime that a permanent timber supply can make this country a greater factor in the world's history than all the Dreadnoughts which it will ever own or all the military corps which it will ever to get us into trouble.

Agriculture at British Association

The British Association for the Advancement of neighbors to buy his surplus stock. ourselves justified in regarding it as one of the of Science held its seventy-ninth annual meetlargest forested tracts extant on the globe, ing in Winnipeg last week and during a part of has two courses open. He can quit business Lately, however, since our forest resources have the week before. This is the third time an and beat the game that way, or extend the come to be investigated, surveys made of the association meeting has been held in this field of his operations until he has a market standing timber and an approximate estimate country and the first one to be held west of the large enough to buy what he has for sale.

extensive than they were supposed to be, of scientists, but such of the proceedings of the they are not warranted in going to the expense looks very far ahead, has been forced at last cultural division. Agriculture is too large a head for sale as it can by the man with two to consider the situation and are becoming science to be dangling as a foster child of hundred. It is a good thing to raise superior alarmed over their vanishing timber supplies. botany in the largest, oldest and greatest pure-bred animals but they must disposed of Officials of the United States Forestry Service scientific association in the world.

Local Breeders' Handicap

Scattered through every district are farmers who are into the pure-bred live stock business in a more or less desultory way. They keep a This country has been looked to to supply few head of pure-bred stock and have the young the timber requirements of the United States increase from these for sale for breeding purposes. It has happened, however, rather frequently of late years that the small breeder has had trouble selling his surplus stock for breeding purposes, he has been under the necessity of selling pure-breds to buyers or butchers for slaughtering, and at prices considerably below what they were worth as that will provide for a permanent timber breeders, all of which has tended to dissatisfy the local breeder of blooded live stock.

The farmer keeping a few head of pure-bred to furnish a market for his young stock, has seen his business dwindle down almost to nothing. His own district has not created demand for breeding stock that came anywhere near exhausting supply, with the result that sales are slow and prices not what they should be

In times like these a breeder needs to spread himself out and enlarge his selling ground far beyond his own locality. If we study the manner in which the most successful live stock selling businesses are carried on we find that this principle has been adopted in all of them. muster. Certainly such an asset is not likely The whole country is their market and consequently in times of depression these breeders feel the effects of decreasing demand less than the breeder does who is depending on a handful

To overcome this handicap the local breeder In brief he should seek publicity for his stud, capable of producing, we have learned that the It is doubtful if the average man could be herd, or flock, by advertising. Farmers with timber resources of Canada are much less much interested in the deliberations of a body only a few head of breeding stock may consider and that if the cut continues to increase agricultural sections as are not as dry as dust of advertising, but as a matter of fact they are annually at the rate it has during the past ten and altogether too scientific for every day the ones who should use advertising space in a or fifteen years, the time is in sight when our consumption are summarized in this issue. good farm paper. Breeders who are exhibitors The agricultural section is a body of strong at national and international exhibitions gain The world is using timber much more rapidly workers, the leaders of agricultural research publicity for their stock in this way or have than it is being grown. In Europe, only, and educational work in Great Britain and the learned the value of advertising in creating have attempts been made to plant trees for principal over seas dominions being members demand for their stock. Their selling field is as the production of timber. In America we and contributors. Agriculture, in the pres- large as the area over which the journals have contented ourselves with setting aside a ent arrangement is a sub-section of the depart- circulate that carry their advertising. Their reserve here and there while we proceeded to ment of botany, not being deemed of sufficient own locality is not depended on to provide convert into merchantable form all the other importance to warrant the association conferring purchasers year by year for all their surplus standing timber in sight. The United States, on it full association powers. Its present status stock. The adoption and following out of this more than this country, devastated their is unsatisfactory in a good many ways and system of selling in the live stock business has forest resources. The timbered areas were pressure should be brought to bear by those built up practically every breeding establishworked out with such rapidity and thorough- who have agricultural science at heart to have ment of repute in the Dominion. It can be ness that the American public which rarely full sectional powers conferred upon the agri- followed as readily by the breeder with two to good advantage.