

In Canadian forests there are a great variety of woods, but since pine and spruce must continue to be our largest timber products, it may be interesting to know their rate of growth. In trying to justify the severe drain on our forests by the very injudicious cutting of pulpwood, some have argued that spruce forests renew themselves every twenty-five or thirty years. Now, such an idea is utterly absurd. Returning to an area which was cut twenty-five years ago, the woodsman knows quite well that the trees which are large enough for present cutting were there when the former cut was made. White pine may attain a diameter of eighteen inches in 100 years or twelve inches in 60 years, but spruce is of slower growth, gaining on an average one inch in diameter in seven to nine years, which shows that it requires 100 years to grow a twelve-inch spruce from seed. These



Spruce Forest in Northern Ontario, running 22 cords to the acre.

figures, of course, have reference to merchantable timber and not to the low-branched trees grown in full light, in which case the diameter and number of branches increase at the expense of length and quality. It can be seen now that forestry is profitable only in the long run, which of course explains why private concerns have not assumed a policy of forest preservation on a scientific basis; and if we consider the immense profits made by entirely clearing a limit, we cannot blame the business man for failing to provide for the country's future, especially when our Legislative Assemblies are quibbling over the graft that Jones or Brown made in some recent sale of timber limits.

It is gratifying to know, however, that two or three private corporations have recognized the importance of forest preservation, and at present one of our large banking institutions, owning immense tracts of timber limits, has employed the