



AS OTHERS SEE IT



U. S. FORESTRY PROBLEM.

“WE ARE cutting our timber probably four times as fast as timber is being grown. It is useless to decry the generous use which American industry has made of our forests. It has contributed powerfully to the industrial development and commercial supremacy of the United States. The forestry problem does not result from the liberal use of our forests, but from our failure to use our forest-growing lands. There is an ample area of land in this country, which is not tillable, to support all of our timber requirements, all of our wood manufactures, all of our home building and agricultural use of timber, indeed an even larger export trade than at present, if that land can be kept at work growing timber. Reforestation has become a commercial necessity of the United States.”

Col. W. B. GREELEY, *Forester.*

REDUCING FIRE LOSSES.

“THREE million dollars,” which is the estimated loss suffered by the logging operators of Oregon, Washington and British Columbia up to the middle of July, “would build a large amount of commercial power lines,” remarks J. Kenneth Pearce, of the Logging Engineering Department of the University of Washington, in discussing the causes of fires in logging operations. The electrically operated donkey engine reduces the fire hazard to the minimum, and from this standpoint alone is well worth considering wherever practical. Each year as the timbered country is opened up the danger from fire increases and spark-emitting logging equipment is responsible for its proportion of losses. In Western British Columbia logging is suspended by executive proclamation until the danger point is passed. It would seem as if the time had arrived when logging during the extreme dry season should be suspended when the fire situation becomes critical. Smoking in the woods should be strictly prohibited during the dry season.

HENRY FORD BATHES LOGGERS.

(*Western Canada Lumberman.*)

AND now comes the ubiquitous Henry, the manufacturer of the small but efficient motor car, that has given dollars and lustre to the name Ford, and says:—

“Henry Ford has revolutionized the system of conducting logging camps at Iron Mountain, Michigan.

“When Ford started lumber production, besides carrying on operations in a progressive manner, he gave consideration to the accommodation and the comforts of men in his lumber camps at Sidnaw and Ontonagon.

“The men now enjoy all the comforts of a real home. In the good old days, the men slept in dirty bunks with straw for mattresses, ate food that was good, bad and sometimes worse, were paid low wages, and were forced to read by lamplight, providing they bought their own reading matter.

“Now it's different. The buildings are equipped with electric lights, reading room, dining tables and writing

desks. Each man has his own bed, not a bunk, equipped with a mattress, comforter, sheets, blankets and pillows.

“And last, but not least, there are bath rooms. Now every man takes a bath at least once a week, and has a complete change of clean clothing to put on. In the old days, many lumberjacks would go to the woods in the fall and not take a bath until the camp broke up in the spring.”

Old stuff, Henry, old stuff. For several years now many of the logging operators in British Columbia have been furnishing hotels for their men, two men ONLY to the room, hot and cold shower baths at all times. Large, warm and comfortably furnished “lounging rooms.” Dining rooms with bills of fare that would make the mouth of an old Roman epicure fill frequently with water. When it comes to getting out the timber, nay, Henry, nay, B. C. can show you the way, all the way.

QUEBEC PLANS IMPROVEMENTS.

(By Ellwood Wilson.)

THE report of the Department of Lands and Forests for 1921 contains some very valuable suggestions for the better management of Quebec's forests. The law that was passed at the last session of the Legislature, to the effect that anyone operating on Crown Lands, so-called “limits,” must, if he wishes to cut in any other way than to the present diameter limits, thirteen inches two feet above the ground, for white and red pine, ten inches for white spruce, seven inches for black spruce, present a working plan for the approval of the Chief Forester, is a long step forward in forestry practice. When this is approved permission to cut to different diameter limits or even to cut clean may be granted. This law is not only a good one for the public domain, but also for the licensee. It prevents over cutting and thus lengthens the life of the timber supplies, insuring the permanence of industries dependent on the forest, which stabilizes and strengthens such industries putting them on a permanent foundation. The government's idea is to ascertain the amount of wood produced annually and then to restrict the cut to that amount. This will, of course, necessitate the mapping and estimating of the timber by licensees and the preparation of working plans in advance of logging, but the more progressive companies have already either nearly completed such work or have it under way. Almost all of the uncut stands in Quebec are over mature and the areas show an annual decrease in the amount of timber rather than an increase and these areas will never become productive until they are cut. In many instances the advanced growth is sufficient to restock the areas if they are cut clean. There are also many areas in the north where only about ten per cent. of the timber ever reaches the government diameter limit and these, if the diameter regulation is enforced would be practically closed to lumbering. By co-operation with the government, practical plans for lumbering can be worked out which will not only put limits on a sustained yield basis but will make logging cheaper and more profitable. Mutual confidence on the part of the government and the licensee will help both parties and will be to their advantage.