

"I personally know large sections grossly over-estimated at forty-five cords to the acre that cannot possibly cut more than four to five cords to the acre on the average. Spruce mixed with pine is sometimes quite deceiving and certain pulp wood areas further south estimated at ten cords to the acre average are to-day actually cutting less than two cords to the acre."

when bottoms can be secured this applies to New Brunswick wood as well.

Export wood like timber must inevitably go higher, due to the scarcity of labor in Canada from enlistment and the demand from war industries which men find more congenial to home life than the woods employment affords. Added to this is the increased cost of provision, such as hogs live weight at \$12.00 per hundred, and sugar at \$10.00 per hundred wholesale, with no possible outlook than further advances in the provision market all round. Added to this is the increased and ever increasing cost of barking plants, saws, boilers, chain, rubber and leather belting, etc., several of which have gone up from 55 per cent. to over 100 per cent.

Increased Paper Prices.

The final solution does not lie in cheaper Canadian wood or decreased cost of transportation, but in increased paper prices during the period of the war, and as month after month passes without positive results, two or three or more years' war is not at all improbable. Canadian pulpwood operators selling to American mills are not now making any more money than heretofore and are taking immensely larger risks unwarranted by the profits obtainable. Personal friends of mine are operating all the way from the head of the lakes through to St. John and have made less money and some of them more debt within the past eighteen months than at any other period of their pulpwood operation. Many of the operators have had to close out entirely, and this is bad for the reason that in any business if the stream of consumable goods

is steady economic life goes on smoothly; if for any reason the stream is interrupted more or less serious consequences always ensue. Operators should go further in insisting on financial assistance from the buyers, for these mill owners know that there is no greater help to legitimate business than well regulated and easy flowing credit.

Forests Unlimited?

Nor is the quantity for future supply to these American mills up to 19c rate by any means unlimited. Most convincing, indeed, is a map showing the pulp concessions granted in Ontario and Quebec, and if to these could be added those that will likely yet be granted on five good pulp and paper mills sites remaining in the North the result would be more so. Mill sites to manufacture the wood growing north of the National Transcontinental are impossible except at Lac Seul and none on the Nelson on the Hudson Bay line. I might also possibly add one on the upper waters of the St. Maurice above La Tuque. All the other waters are flowing north and will not be intercepted by steel within a quarter of a century.

Looking away to the future because some of our Canadian mills are yet going to have to go as far afield for their wood as the American mills, who are rail hauling 600 miles, are doing to-day, it would be well here to state frankly that there is no commercial timber for a hundred miles south of the waters of James Bay on the territory known as the James Bay Basin.

Only Near River Banks.

Many Canadian and American mill men have the idea that because they are told spruce is growing on