

BUILDING UP NEW TRADE MEANS BUILDING UP NEW FORESTS!



By Rt. Hon. Sir George E. Foster, K.C.M.G.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.



A Call to National Action in the Interests of Canada's Future Population.

Editor, "Canadian Forestry Journal."

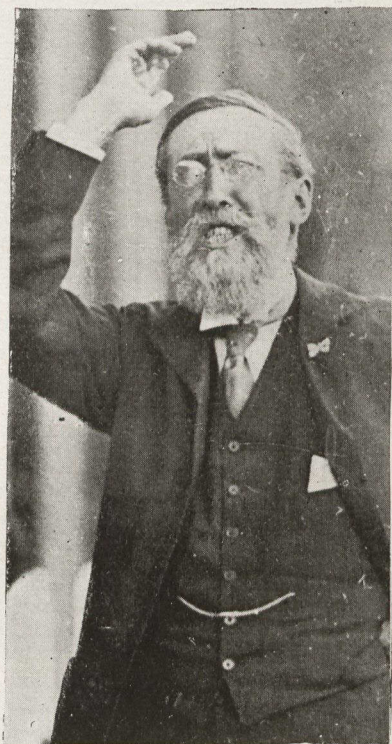
My deep interest in the subject prompts me to send you this brief reply to your two questions:

1. What in my view is the position assured to Canadian forest products in future export markets?

In respect to this the situation is obvious. For nearly four years and a half the most destructive war of the ages has raged over a great part of the world on land, on sea and in the air. It has been a war of tremendous equipments and of most destructive appliances in offence and defence. For this equipment in ships, airplanes, bridges, trench housing and packing construction, the call upon forest resources has been almost incalculable. This call has not been satisfied from the usual timber resources, but has been made with peculiar insistence upon private and public timber areas hitherto little cut, which constituted as it were, great growing reserves for future use. In this way the standing and preserved areas in Great Britain, France, Belgium and Central Europe have been sadly depleted. This, however, is only one side of the picture.

A World of Bare Shelves.

Whilst this severe and pitiless requisition on standing timber was being made, forces of destruction by virtue of and armed by this very supply were incessantly at work sinking, burning, and battering to atoms structures of all conceivable kinds in which wood formed the material in whole or in part. So that here we have had the merry race of devastation feverishly employing the living material in order through its destruction to destroy the vast accumulation of dead and built in material. It needs but a moment's thought to conceive the effect of this double orgy of destruction upon the world's forest resources. But it will tax the capacity of the best statisticians to display the incalculable loss.



Now when peace comes, the world's shelves are bare, the world's resources are diminished and the world's needs are greater than ever. The deduction is plain.

Canada which possesses large forest resources will be imperatively called upon to contribute to the reconstruction necessities of the devastated portions of Europe.

Organisation, intelligent and economic methods of production and financial credits will do the rest. Are our Captains of Lumber ready? If not, it is time they were "up and doing."