

## Helping the Forest Renew its Youth

Replanting of Forests to Sustain the  
Pulp and Paper Industry

Perhaps the largest reforestation scheme ever undertaken in Canada is being carried out in Quebec this year. The Laurentide Company, of Grand'mère, is planting over 1,000,000 seedlings, mostly Norway spruce, with some white, Scotch and jack pine and balsam. The Riordan Company, of St. Jovite, is also planting about 750,000 seedlings. Much the greater number of the seedlings used are imported from forest nurseries in the United States, which, in turn, procured the seed some three or four years ago from Northern Europe.

These companies hope soon to plant every year at least one tree for every one removed by them. Naturally, such a large scheme of reforestation demanded the building up of a large organization, as well as the carrying out of much experimental work, all of which involved a large outlay of capital. It goes without saying that such a task would not have been undertaken if the men who control the companies were not convinced that it was a good investment, and that only by such means could their deforested lands be made productive before their available supplies of timber were exhausted. Forest culture presupposes long-term investments and, consequently, the necessity of a minimum outlay in land and preliminary expenses. For this reason it is generally considered to be an undertaking which governments can handle to better advantage than can private corporations or individuals. The Quebec companies, however, have acquired considerable areas of cheap land in fee simple. They established their own nurseries and these will be gradually enlarged until they will furnish sufficient seedlings to keep pace with the planting. As practically no seed of Canadian trees is now obtainable, it is being imported from Europe, but in time it should be possible to obtain native seed. It is, for example, not yet definitely known how Norway spruce will grow under Canadian conditions. A vast amount of experimental work, requiring several years' time, will be necessary to decide this point. In order to avoid any delay, the companies are engaging in this experimental work in co-operation with the Commission of Conservation co-incidentally with their planting.

It is to be regretted that the several provincial governments which have control of their forests should permit great areas of cut-over forest lands to remain idle until the time has been reached when private enterprise "must" undertake the task in order to prevent the decline of the timber and pulp industries. The provinces might well learn from the peoples of Europe, who have been practising state forestry for more than a century. It is long past the

time for heeding the warnings of those who, for more than a generation, have been pointing out the menace of permitting a great national resource to become depleted. Anyone who now prates about "Canadian forests being" "vast beyond comprehension," "illimitable", or "inexhaustible" should be regarded as an enemy of the country.—A.D.

## Defective Leather.

It is a common experience that the soles of boots and shoes of a given thickness have different degrees of durability. Doubtless not a little of the difference in the quality of the leather is due to the way which the hide was tanned, or whether the hide was from a healthy animal; but there is a type of defect sometimes noticeable in the leather from the tanned hides of bulls, buffaloes, oxen, or cows, when it is cut with a sharp knife, that the ordinary manufacturers of belting and of boots apparently know nothing about. The nature of the defect is that, instead of the leather appearing uniform in texture and quality through its thickness, it is streaky, one or more layers of fleshy or horny streaks being seen on the cut surface or section. The cause of this defect is that when the growing animal has an illness its coat is affected, it loses its usual lustre, and a layer of inferior hide is put on. Such leather must be regarded as wasteful, whether it be used for boots or for machinery belting, etc.—"Wealth from Waste," Spooner.

## Carelessness in Marketing is Costly

Attention to Appearance Tends to  
Greater and More Rapid Sales

Booksellers state that one of the first essentials in introducing a new novel is an attractive cover.

This same consideration holds good no matter in what line of commerce it may be applied. Two market gardeners stand side by side, one has his vegetables washed, neatly trimmed, if necessary tied up in bunches, and in every way presentable. The other has economized in time at home, with the result that his supplies are anything but appetizing. In competition with his careful and cleanly market neighbour, he always loses. His rival will secure better prices and will be sold out much earlier.

Canada produces more than sufficient for the wants of Canadians. One thing is often lacking, however, and that is attractive marketing of the product. In many cases, imported fruits and vegetables are being sold, to the detriment of local products, due entirely to the lack of appreciation of the selling value of appearance.

The green vegetable season is now at its height. If this produce is presented in attractive condition it will greatly increase the sales, thus reducing to a large extent the large amounts which annually go to waste. The results would be worth the effort.—J. D.



Call No. 181  
A YARD IN PRICE'S LANE, TORONTO. NOTE HOUSE AND STABLE IN BACKGROUND

## Cleaning of Slums is Urgent Problem

Health Authorities have the Powers—  
Will they Use them?

Modern town-planning schemes are most excellent, as, by their establishment, they will tend to improve conditions and provide better homes for certain classes of our people; they will also relieve the congestion which occurs amongst those who cannot afford what to them is a luxury in housing accommodation.

We desire to emphasize at the present time, however, the necessity of action for the immediate improvement, and the putting into better sanitary condition, of the homes of the masses—those who,

during their lifetime, will, perhaps, not receive any benefit; in other words, they, and probably many of their offspring, will succumb while waiting for the dawn of the long-promised day when they are to occupy a good healthy home.

That these are not idle words is quite evident from the finding of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations. In its report of June 25, 1919, it says:

"Another cause of unrest, which we met with at practically every place we visited, was the scarcity of houses and the poor quality of some which did exist.

The existing condition for the worker is not only the absence of sufficient housing accommodation, but the inadequacy of those that are in existence.

Poor sanitary conditions and sufficient rooms are the chief complaints. . . . Some new should be adopted, with as little delay as possible, to remedy the defect."

"Poor sanitary conditions in insufficient rooms" are emphatically the "chief complaints" respect to the homes of the workers in our factories and workshop but it is equally true of millions of thousands of our people who do come within this class. Our slum can and should be improved. These homes must be the abode, for a long time, of those condemned for various reasons, to be the occupants. From such homes come the many funerals of babies and infants, and it is in these places we are raising the immediate men and women of Canada.

Therefore, the suggestion of the Commission is most opportune, viz., "means should be adopted with as little delay as possible, to remedy this defect." The only criticism that can be made is the recommendation is not strong enough. The subject was worth of further elaboration when considering industrial relations as the "unrest" of to-day.

The work of modern town planning and housing must be continued, but health authorities must more determinedly than ever carry on their battle with the slums. If we cannot demolish them because of lack of better accommodation we can and should improve the interior and exterior of our slum homes. Rags, when clean, are not a disgrace, provided the wearer cannot afford better apparel. It would be much better to have clean rooms and clean environments in the slum quarters than allow people to exist in squalor and dirt such as the illustration herewith depicts.

That Canadian municipalities are at fault in this matter is quite evident from the report on undesirable living conditions in "the Ward", Toronto, issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research in 1918.

The reader has but to study the illustration and therein find food for thought and convincing evidence that action—immediate action—is necessary in Toronto that the slums of that city be removed or abated.

Health authorities must initiate and energetically carry on a campaign to clean the slums, until such time as they can be eliminated altogether. This will result in a lessened infant mortality, and less disease and suffering; a gradual education of the slum dwellers in all that appertains to better social conditions, and life by the social worker will also become possible. It is only a temporary measure, awaiting the brighter era of the slumless city, but it must be done with as little delay as possible.

We must bear in mind that Canada has its devastated areas equally as important to rehabilitate as those of France and Belgium, and what is more serious they are of more than recent origin.