

Our Own Danger. The same tendencies that will wreak havoc upon the United States if allowed to grow, are operating in Canada, but it is the duty of those who can shape our public policy to see that special interests are not permitted for their selfish ends to ruin that greatest of all our natural resources which it has taken a bountiful Providence hundreds of years to create, and whose beneficent influence was intended for the whole people and not for a class.

Canada now stands in two dangers—one the uncontrolled desolation by the hands of its own people of the forests which regulate and maintain the water-powers of our rivers and influence the rainfall upon which successful agriculture must depend in the future—the other, the depletion of those forest areas timbered with spruce, balsam, poplar and other woods, which are being taken out of the country to supply American pulp and paper mills, whose home supplies are being exhausted.

The Case of Quebec. It is bad that the forests are thus unwisely treated at our own hands; it is worse when we invite outsiders in to assist in destroying the heritage of our children. Even if this matter concerned only the present generation, and the question were only one of an industrial policy for the passing years, it would be unwise, as the following considerations will show. The value of a cord of spruce pulpwood shipped from the Eastern Townships to the United States four years ago was about \$3.50 per cord; while a cord shipped in 1907 is worth \$6 to \$7 in the rough, or \$8 to \$10 when peeled. To the latter value—the highest valuation in the history of the province and being in itself a confirmation of the preceding statement as to developments in the United States—add the average railway freight, (\$3 a cord), and the money left in the province from the export of the cord of wood is say \$10. Now if the same cord of wood* is made into ground pulp in Canada, the result would be \$20 per cord, and if it were manufactured into news print the value would be \$45 per cord, or if into paper of the higher qualities, the value would be \$50 to \$100 per cord. Applying these results to the pulpwood exported from Canada and taking the returns of the nine months of the official year as correct, the wood now exported to the United States would, if made into paper in Canada at an average of \$50 per ton, yield a product worth over \$30,000,000 a year.

This takes no account of the results to the railways and the communities affected by the creation of such an industry. The railway freight tariff on pulpwood is the lowest in the whole scale of freight rates in Canada and the United States. On pulp the freight is double that on pulpwood, and on paper about ten times. Then the creation of a paper industry means a great deal of new trade in machinery, supplies and general merchandise; the latter feature adding traffic and industry to the amount of from ten times to one hundred times the value of the traffic and merchandise directly concerned in the paper trade itself. The creation of a large paper industry would cheapen the cost of Canadian, as compared

*A cord of wood will make from 1,850 lbs. to a ton of mechanical pulp.