

A FOREST POLICY FOR CANADA

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(Given before the Lumbermen's Association of Western Nova Scotia).

The general arguments for conservative forest management are:—

- (1) That a shortage of natural supplies is in sight.
- (2) That wasteful lumbering not only destroys useful material, but wastes the soil.
- (3) That climate and waterflow are unbalanced by forest destruction.

Nobody in his senses would proclaim that a timber famine is in sight, in Canada, if only the needs of the present population are to be considered, for Canada has at present the largest per capita allowance of forest area in the world, namely, at least forty acres, or more than five times as much acreage as the next best supplied countries, Sweden or the United States.

But Canada cannot shut herself off from the rest of the world, and in this modern world questions of supply and demand cannot be considered for one part without reference to all other parts. Hence the questions both of supplies and of consumption by other countries must enter into such an enquiry.

There is, however, no need of including any but the industrial nations of Europe and North America, for the rest of the world is not using wood, does not require wood to any appreciable amount, although it contains the bulk of the population, nor does it contain, to any large extent, the character of timber which is acceptable for our uses.

The five hundred million people of the northern hemisphere consume probably more than fifteen times the wood materials which the one thousand million people of the rest of the world require, and the forest areas of most useful character are also located in the northern hemisphere.

EUROPEAN EXPORTERS OF TIMBER.

Conditions in Europe can be briefly summarized as follows: There are only four or five countries in Europe still laboring under the belief that they have a surplus of timber supplies which they can afford to export to less fortunate nations. These are Russia, with Finland, Sweden, Norway, Austria-Hungary with its dependencies, and little Roumania, which has lately furnished small amounts. The four great exporters claim still over five acres forest area per capita; but lately they have come to realize that, while the woodland area is still there