

as the present owner, the Canadian people, can?

This business man would regard the reserve as a big tree-farm from which he must produce the largest quantity of the best possible timber in the shortest possible time. To do this he makes use of those two ultimate natural factors of production, sunlight and soil fertility. By patiently fostering the best conditions for these two factors to work together for the production of timber, the Germans and the Japs have built up their magnificent forests: and we in Canada can do the same. The opportunity and possibilities for forestry on the Riding Mountain reserve are splendid, and in this it is only a type of all the reserves in these prairie provinces.

Experiments Needed.

Now, outside of economic efficiency, the ultimate success of such a forest policy must depend, as you well know, upon a close knowledge of the natural laws underlying and controlling all tree life and growth, and our skill in applying this knowledge under given local conditions—in a word, upon the science and art of silviculture.

Forestry practice cannot be adopted wholesale from another country, because our conditions are different; often on two parts of the same reserve they differ greatly. What Canadian foresters need to-day to guide their fieldwork aright is the compiled result from many definite local experiments. We need a number of forest experiment stations.

Isn't it rather odd that the Canadian people maintain some fifteen experimental farms, where experts search out the laws underlying the best local farming practice and how best to apply them, and yet make no study whatever of their forest crop? If all this research is needed in the case of soil products which grow in sixty to one hundred days, how much more for one requiring sixty to one hundred years? Lumbering

is the third greatest industry in Canada, yet as a nation what are we doing to guarantee its future prosperity and permanence? And this seems all the more remarkable when one reflects that fully two thirds of our croppable land in Canada is suited not to the growth of food crops but wood crops.

The explanation, of course, is that up till now the lumberman has not had to grow his crop like the farmer does. He has cared nothing about the cost of production. He has merely harvested an unearned increment. But from now on that condition will change and definite knowledge of the life-history of our trees become more and more necessary. More and more must our lumberman—whether on Crown lands or not—make provisions for future need by planting, rather than by purchase.

The People's Interest.

As the result of a wise land policy our Canadian timberland has not been alienated, so that forestry in Canada will ever be primarily government work, and this is well. As more and more of this cut-over licensed land reverts to the Crown, it—along with the rest of our wild lands—should undergo an expert soil survey and classification, and all that is absolute forest land be made part of our National Forests. (The term 'Reserve' is an unhappy one, because their usable products are not locked up but under due safeguards are for full and immediate use). But whatever the name, let its status as forest land be fixed beyond doubt. Permanence is the very first essential for a forest reserve.

Just let me emphasize in one further word that the people of any forest-supported community have a vastly greater interest at stake in perpetuating that forest wealth than has the lumberman who is exploiting it. For every dollar of profit that lumberman clears, he pays out four for labor, supplies, machinery, transportation and taxes, so that from a