

New Brunswick Forest Survey

Classification of Land to Facilitate Settlement on Suitable Areas

Three field parties are now at work in New Brunswick, in connection with the forest survey and classification of Crown lands. The project is under the supervision of P. Z. Caverhill, Provincial Forester, subject to the general direction of the Minister of Lands and Forests. The size and importance of the undertaking is indicated by the fact that the Crown lands in this province comprise 10,000 square miles and return a direct revenue to the provincial treasury averaging more than \$500,000 annually from timber alone, in addition to large revenues from the sale of hunting and fishing privileges.

The best agricultural lands are naturally along the valleys, where settlement has, for the most part, been concentrated. In some cases, however, settlement has extended to the uplands. Some of these lands are well suited for agriculture, but, in other cases, the settlers have apparently been attracted primarily by the timber or by the desire merely to locate a home and have settled on lands wholly unfit for permanent agricultural use.

There is considerable pressure upon the provincial government for the opening up of new lands, to provide for immigration and for the surplus native population. An important feature of the Act of 1913 was the provision for a classification of soils, with the object of directing settlement to lands really suitable for farming purposes. This wise provision is now being carried out, and the result will no doubt be to reduce to a minimum settlement upon non-agricultural lands. The evil effects of such settlement may be seen in every province of Canada, and are due to the previous absence of a definite policy for the directing of settlement to lands really fit for that purpose.

The province of New Brunswick has undertaken to avoid the recurrence of such tragedies as were discovered by the Commission of Conservation to have been enacted in certain portions of the Trent watershed, Ontario, where settlers were allowed to locate on poor, sandy soils, then chiefly valuable only for their timber. With the removal of the timber and the exodus of the lumbering industry, these settlers have been left stranded, with no opportunity to make a comfortable living, and faced with the necessity of constantly lowering their standards.

The work of land classification in New Brunswick is being carried on in connection with the timber estimate and mapping of Crown lands. The country is covered systematically and examinations of the soil are made at regular intervals. Beyond

any doubt, the result will be the opening up of new lands for settlement and the establishment of new communities under conditions which will ensure comfort and a reasonable standard of living. This, in turn, will mean a permanent increase in the population of the province, by providing for the native surplus as well as for immigrants.

The Commission of Conservation has co-operated with the provincial government in laying the foundation for the land classification work, through the detail of several experts, who have just returned from an extended trip to the several localities in which the field parties are now operating.—C.L.

Canada's Forests and the War

Much Timber will be Required for Reconstruction Work in Europe

The economic importance of the forest resources of this continent will be greatly enhanced as a result of the war. Enormous quantities of timber are necessarily used for military purposes, in addition to what is unavoidably destroyed in the fighting zone.

The shortage of tonnage has made

it impracticable for the needed supplies of timber to be furnished on any large scale from Canada or the United States, and, as a result, heavy cutting has become necessary in the belligerent countries. While England is not generally regarded as a forest country, and has made relatively little progress in public forestry, there is still in England and Scotland a considerable amount of timber, mostly on royal and private estates. The imperative necessity for utilizing this timber has resulted in the despatch of a battalion of Canadian woodsmen to cut it for war purposes. Very large quantities have also been cut in France and in Russia. In Belgium, the Germans have cut a large proportion of the timber and have used it in military operations or shipped it to Germany.

The result of all this over-cutting will mean a heavy shortage of timber for reconstruction purposes after the war, when it should be possible to make large shipments from this continent. This will mean a largely increased drain upon Canadian forests, and serves to emphasize the necessity for still more complete conservation of this tremendously valuable asset, if Canada is to take full advantage of her opportunities for world-service in this direction.

The greatest enemy of the forest is and always has been fire. It has been estimated that the average annual forest fire loss in this country is sufficient to pay the interest on the recent Dominion loan of \$100,000,000. To reduce this loss, it is necessary not only to grant larger appropriations for fire-ranging services, but also to reorganize such services in a number of cases, with a view of securing a dollar's worth of protection for every dollar spent. It has been stated on competent authority that at present more money is wasted on forest fire protection, for lack of proper organization and supervision, than is expended advantageously.

The importance of the forest in the internal economy of Canada is shown by the fact that the average total value of forest products of Canada is in the neighbourhood of \$180,000,000, or an average wealth production of about \$25 per head of population. Nearly \$8,000,000 in direct revenue is received annually by the federal and provincial governments from the sale or lease of cutting rights to publicly owned timber lands and from royalty and stumpage payments made upon timber so cut. Some 5,000 wood-using industries in Canada are directly dependent upon the supply of timber cut from non-agricultural lands.

The importance of preventing the continued destruction of this great resource can scarcely be over-emphasized.—C.L.

Don't use an open light when looking for escaping gas.



Cut 13A

What happens when settlement is permitted on non-agricultural land. This tract in New Brunswick was under cultivation thirty years ago, but the land was too sandy and stony for permanent agricultural use and was finally abandoned. It is again growing up to timber.



Cut 13B

Contrast the above with this picture, taken in a new settlement near Anderson, N.B. The soil is excellent for farming, and the settlers are assured of permanently good returns for their work. The classification of crown lands, now under way, will segregate lands chiefly valuable for agriculture and make them available for settlement.

The Committee on Lands recommends very earnestly, to individual farmers and to all local, provincial and Dominion authorities concerned with the matter, that no effort be spared to reduce, as quickly and as far as practicable, the prevalence of weeds, and to bring about generally, on the farms, cultivated fields and seeds which shall be reasonably clean;

Further, that steps should be taken to introduce to the people, and the scholars in our schools, methods of carrying on the work of weed extermination.

From Report of Seventh Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation.