



Fort Smith, on Slave River, N.W.T.

Extensive Planting Plan to Save Ontario's Pine Supply

Five Reforestation Centres Proposed to Recover 10,000 Acres of Barrens Each Year for Sixty Years.

By E. J. Zavitz, Provincial Forester of Ontario.

It must be evident that Ontario should be vitally interested in reforestation when we realize that a very large proportion of her area is made up of classes of land which are non-agricultural, and which must eventually be managed for forest uses if they are to remain productive.

In approaching the subject of reforestation in Ontario the writer desires to give a brief description of the forest conditions, especially that portion lying south of the Albany River on the east and the English River on the west.

Very little is known of the forest conditions in the territory north of these rivers, but the meagre reports would lead us to believe that in this sub-Arctic type no material of any consequence will be found. The forest north of these rivers is composed of white and black spruce of small diameter, and chiefly important as possible sources of pulpwood for the future.

The present commercial forests of Ontario lie in the Laurentian Plateau, which

extends for a thousand miles across the Province, with a superficial area of one hundred million acres.

Within this region there exist restricted areas with soils adapted to agriculture. The greater portion of the area is made up of rocky out-cropping and glacial sandy soils, which can only be put to forest uses.

"The height of land" which separates the Hudson Bay watershed from that of the Great Lakes is a dividing line between the two general forest types. On the Hudson Bay watershed white spruce, black spruce and jack pine (*Pinus Banksiana*) are the predominant conifers; aspen and balsam poplar are the most important hardwoods. The poplars in this region attain a splendid development.

While no comprehensive forest survey of this region has been attempted, a number of large areas have been cruised and estimated. The forest of the region is largely adapted for pulpwood and tie timber, with very small average acreage yields. Taking the whole territory on the average I doubt whether we could expect

to secure more than two to three cords of spruce per acre.

On the southern slopes of the Laurentian Plateau we find the white and red pine forests of Ontario, with an admixture of spruce and balsam. Along the southern fringes of this region and especially in the area south of the French River, yellow birch appears as our most important hardwood. Within this region white and red pine are restricted to much smaller areas than is commonly supposed. Virgin pine forests have practically disappeared from the Ottawa watershed, and the country south of the French river. The watershed of Lake Superior does not contain white and red pine in commercial quantities, but is a jack pine and spruce type. In the western end of the Province virgin stands of white and red pine exist to a limited extent in the Lake of the Woods watershed. The most important remaining stands in the district are those in the Quetico Park.

In the east the remaining virgin stands are on the Lake Huron watershed, a large proportion of which is now held under