

War Needs Over-ride Private Rights

The right recently assumed by the British Columbia Government to enter upon and utilize any area of spruce timber for aeroplane construction without the consent of the owner is thus defended by Mr. H. R. MacMillan, forestry expert of the Spruce Production Department, Imperial Munitions Board:

"If we had to wait until everybody that had an interest in a particular stretch of spruce-bearing limits had made up his mind that he could do no better than accept our offer, the war would be over before the spruce would be cut. The owners of the spruce that is available are scattered all over the world, and even with the utmost co-operation on their part when we did get in touch with them, tremendous delays would result owing to the time taken to send paper back and forth. When to this is added the natural hesitation of men to part with what they believe to be valuable property until they are quite sure they are obtaining a fair equivalent, it will be seen that in effect a great deal of spruce is practically tied up indefinitely.

"The spruce bill meets this situation. It gives power to cut spruce and fixes the price the owner must accept. That price is \$6.00 per thousand for first-class spruce, and \$2.50 for second. The money is paid for all logs that are put into the water on the figures furnished by a government scaler. The owner is under no expense. We cut the spruce and we take all the risks of towing to the mill. The owner gets his price net. The money is paid over to the provincial government and is kept in a trust fund, out of which the owners receive their respective quotas.

"The prices we offer are generous. The best evidence that they are the best that anyone could expect is shown by the fact that although they have been published for several weeks the first complaint that they are not high enough has yet to be received.

"As things will stand when the bill becomes law we shall be able to go in and take the spruce we need wherever we can find it, regardless of all questions as to ownership, and the owner will get adequate compensation."

AHEAD OF THEM ALL

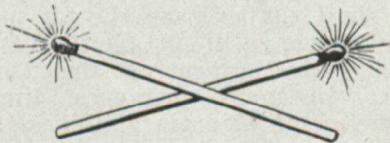
Quebec leads all Canadian provinces in pulp and paper making. In 1916, 924,000 cords of pulp wood were cut by Quebec workmen, and this huge log pile was worth almost \$7,000,000. Ontario came second, with 637,000 cords cut.

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