

Pulp and Paper Industry Requires Permanent Forests

By George M. McKee, President of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association

In recent years much has been written and said regarding the perpetuation of our forest areas, and the reforestation of our waste and denuded lands. There are many reasons why this problem is attracting such wide-spread public attention:—The gradual but steady diminution of supply, the rate of cutting obviously exceeding the rate of growth; the increase of consumption with continuous corresponding increase in the demand on the forests with the complexity of modern civilization; and the desire of those using the forest for raw material to find some permanent and practical forest policy that will increase the yield of timber and at the same time perpetuate the forest.

Much of what has been written and said has been from theory or sentiment. Seldom do we hear from the man who stands between the shareholders and the payroll of our great wood consuming industries, not because he is not vitally interested in this problem but rather because the management of all our large pulp and paper industries have had and are having a desperate struggle to develop and advance these properties to a sound financial basis.

It has not yet been demonstrated, nor is it generally believed, that individual companies can consider it sound economics to use stockholders' money for extensive tree-planting programs, where it will require from fifty to sixty years before a return can be looked for on the investment. On the other hand there are, perhaps, many arguments that could be advanced to indicate that our Governments should go into reforestation on an extensive scale.

For a number of years all the pulp and



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paper companies have had trained foresters at work making a study of the various areas upon which they have operated, and upon lands that are to be cut in the future, with the view of determining how they could best work the forests and eventually devise a plan by which the Provinces, the private owners and the licensees of Crown Lands could co-operate in the making of forest regulations designed to increase the yield and at the same time perpetuate our forest areas. These foresters have now practically come to the unanimous conclusion that no hard and fast rules and regulations as to diameter for cutting can be laid down applicable to all areas to secure the best

yields and at the same time insure a continuation of a permanent forest.

It is now generally conceded by the company foresters, and is being considered by the Provincial authorities that the best results both as to yield and the perpetuation of the forest can be attained by careful preliminary work by the sending of trained foresters and engineers into areas to be lumbered, in advance of cutting, for the purpose of making detail working or cutting plans of all districts to be cut, these plans to be complete in every detail and to show the nature of the land, upland or lowland, mature timber growth, mixed growth, etc. This plan would perhaps indicate that certain sections are completely covered with mature timber and should be cut clean, leaving sufficient seed trees to insure natural reforestation. Under present regulations of cutting down to certain diameters, a large part of this mature timber would be left standing, to be blown down in a very few years, and become a complete waste. Perhaps this plan would also show a section of mixed hardwood and softwood, in which the forester would probably recommend that only the larger mature trees should be cut, there being sufficient protection from the hardwood growth to prevent the standing soft wood from going down with the winds. Much other useful information for cutting operations would also be shown.

With all operations in the Provinces worked out in advance, according to the sober judgment of our best foresters, we believe that a uniform policy could be devised which would be acceptable to the Provincial authorities, and which would be a big step toward a permanent policy.

My Experience in Growing Trees on the Prairie

By M. J. Stevenson, Morris, Manitoba

One of Canada's Most Successful Farmers and Tree Planters.

To me tree growing is one of the vital questions affecting the West to-day. Go where you will over this vast prairie land and you will find farmstead after farmstead as bare of trees and shrubs to-day as when the settler first located. No wonder the farmer's wife gets lonesome and homesick as she listens to the howl of the prairie winds day after day around the bare bleak farmstead, and sighs for the shady lanes and beautiful groves back East.

When we know how quickly these con-

ditions can be changed and a bare wind-swept prairie home made beautiful in its setting of trees and shrubs, we wonder the miracle had not been performed years ago. There are no home surroundings as easily changed as the prairie home. It has a distinct advantage in being bare of trees at first. When you plant, you will be able to place your trees and shrubs to the best advantage. There is no excuse for allowing the farmstead to go without its shelterbelt any longer. Success is assured from the outset if the

right varieties have been planted and the work done intelligently. Again, this Western prairie soil is absolutely hungry for trees. If the ground has been thoroughly worked before planting and the trees properly planted I know of no place where they will grow faster or give better results than right here in the West.

Varieties Advised.

In my experience covering over 35 years in the West I find it is always best for the beginner on the bare prairie to