

leave it entirely to the owner to say what shall be done. The owner cannot do as he pleases with his woods. All cutting is done under government prescribed regulations. So-called clean-cutting, which is permitted in Sweden and Finland under certain conditions, is practically prohibited in Norway. Selective cutting is the only approved method. All cutting is done with regard to its effect upon the standing forest, rather than for the immediate yield. Norwegian foresters are unusually successful in maintaining their forests by natural means. Seeding and planting are seldom resorted to, cutting being done in such a way that Nature replants the cut-over area in a remarkably short time, maintaining the forests in a state of constant development.

The State and the private owners work well together and the results obtained are of the best. Violations of the regulations are very rare. The State is also generous in its support of the forest industry generally and does everything possible to encourage its development.

Coniferous timber areas are estimated to represent about 82 per cent of Norway's total productive forests, Scotch pine and white spruce constituting the principal species. The State Forest Department, which administers the public forests and supervises the administration of those privately owned, is now engaged in completing a survey of the country's total timber resources which, when completed, is expected to lead to further restrictions. An unofficial estimate, covering thirteen million acres of productive forest lands, gives an average of 9.2 cords per acre, or approximately 3,675,000 cords. The total annual consumption, exclusive of imports, has been calculated at about 1,320,000 cords for the wood-using industries and at about 4,765,000 cords of the wood used for fuel, for construction and other domestic purposes is taken into account. According to this calculation Norway is consuming annually from 25 to 30 per cent more wood than its forests are yielding. This is generally admitted by Norwegian foresters. They say, however, that the discrepancy will be overtaken by the development of new forest areas now under way. For the present, expansion of the saw-mill industry has stopped. A decline in other classes of wood products during the next few years is generally anticipated.

As already indicated, more than half of the productive forest lands of Norway is represented by small holdings, principally peasant properties. The small proportion owned by the industrial companies represents land acquired many years ago. Most of the pulp and paper companies of Norway have to depend upon purchased timber for their raw material, a development which, according to some of the companies, places them at a

distinct disadvantage in comparison with similar companies in Canada.

Perfect Co-operation.

Competition between Norwegian wood-buyers for the available supply of domestic pulp-wood is becoming increasingly keen. Most of the mills are located in the south-eastern part of the country on the Glommen, Drammen and Skien rivers, which afford access through the water connections with the best timber areas of southern and central Norway. Contracts for wood supply are made to run from six

months' periods and call for delivery of the wood at the river bank, roughly barked and cut to standard lengths. Timber is scaled and stamped by the purchasers' agents or through competitive timber-driving associations which handle all the timber floated on the principal rivers. Cost of handling wood from point of delivery to mills are pooled and distributed on the basis of quantity and distance. Both buyers and sellers are organized, but conditions do not favor the elimination of competition altogether.

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