



Cutting for reproduction. The strip method in a U.S. national forest.

CANADA'S FORESTS AS A CROP

By Clyde Leavitt, Chief Forester, Commission of Conservation.



Essential Supplies for Industries Not Maintained Under Present Methods of Woods Management



Too much emphasis can not be laid upon the importance to Canada of her forests, in the support and development of her commercial and industrial life. There is, however, great danger of inadequate attention being paid to the perpetuation of this great resource, so that it may always be available, and to an adequate extent, for supplying the needs of the home population, as well as for further building up the great export trade in forest products which already means so much in our business life.

The forest is a crop, like other crops, the principal difference being the long-time element involved in growing it, and the fact that it is at home on non-agricultural lands, largely valuable for no other purpose. Thus far, our forest industries have largely been supported by the exploitation of virgin timber stands—the free gift of Nature, grown without man's intervention or care. The formerly prevalent idea that our timber supplies are of inexhaustible

extent is now known to be a dangerous myth—dangerous because such an idea tends largely to discourage the effort necessary to the perpetuation of the forest on cut-over lands.

In the United States, intelligent citizens are already becoming seriously alarmed at the growing shortage of timber supplies, and much discussion is taking place as to what can be done about it. According to Chief Forester Graves, of the United States Forest Service, the dissipation of the forests in that country still goes on with no let-up. He points out that “exhaustion of local forest supplies, the closing of industries dependent on them, the embarrassment for supplies of the pulp mills and other consumers using special classes of forest products, the generally mounting prices to consumers, are other factors which are calling sharp attention to the effect of forest destruction, and are causing increasing public uneasiness. Leaders of the southern pine manufacturers state