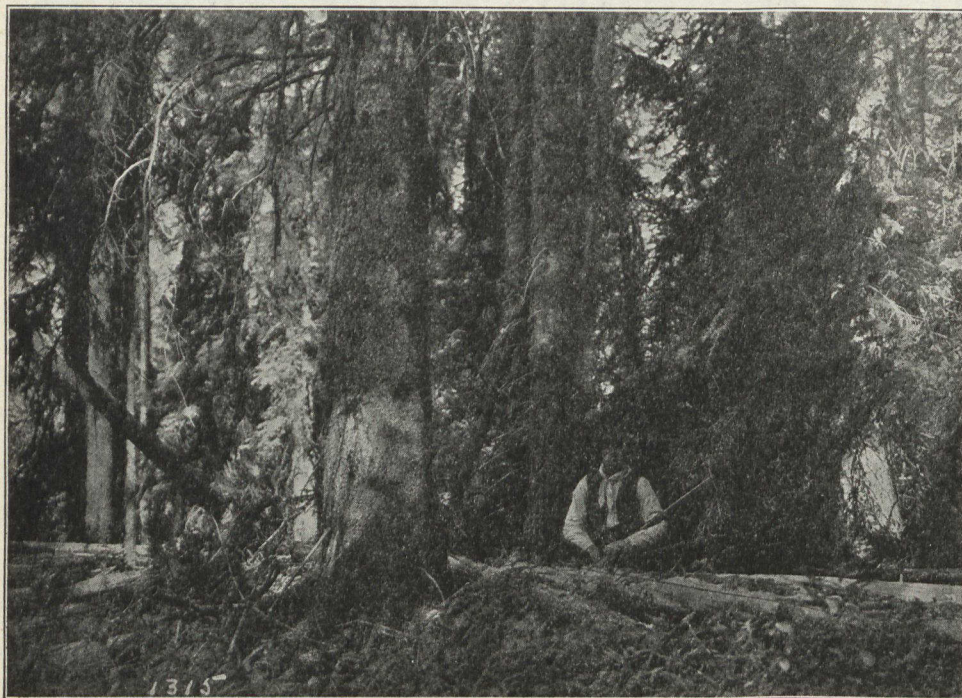


"BEFORE"



Spruce on Shores of Highwood River Before Fire.

feeling of uncertainty as to the future was common to Canada and the United States and it culminated in the establishment of Commissions of Conservation in both countries in 1908 to 1909. The Commission in the United States was established before that in Canada, but ours lived longer, being strangled to death only last year. The leaders in the United States were such men as the then President Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot, Judge Taft, and in Canada, the then Premier, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Clifford Sifton and the Late Senator Edwards. The period was characterized by a stock-taking of all resources—a very simple and fundamental idea, the first step in any private business organization, but one that for some obscure reason always meets with opposition, especially from politicians, when applied to public organizations. We shall never know what it is necessary to do for our forests, for example, until we know what we possess in terms of present capital stock and its rate of natural accretion in relation to the present and probable future harvests of timber and pulpwood. The late Commission of Conservation was the only organization that ever attempted such investigations on a Dominion wide basis—and it was cut down in the dark before its work was completed.

After the Great War we were very humble, but at the same time very proud of the Empire's achievements. We are finding out by sad experience in our industrial and social relations

that some of the most important results of the war were not the most obvious at the time of its cessation. Among other things the war taught us the value of the Empire's forests and, as you know, the Canadian Forestry Corps was a very important factor in winning the war. The importance of the forest as an auxiliary unit in warfare led Great Britain to establish a Forestry Subcommittee as a part of its great Reconstruction Committee that did such magnificent work in meeting the changed requirements of peace. The Forestry Committee reported

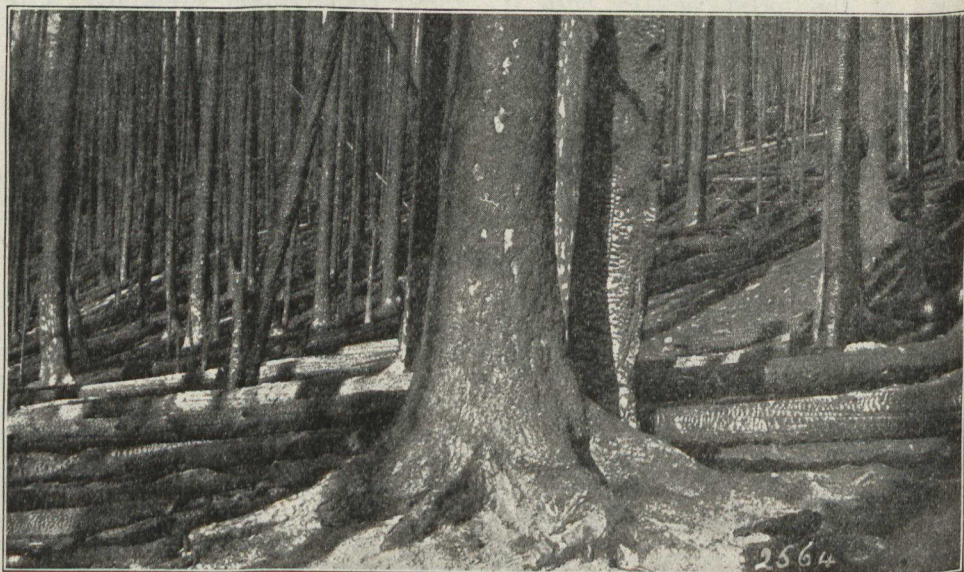
upon the forest conditions in all parts of the Empire and formulated plans for a great reforestation program, involving the planting of 1,700,000 acres and the expenditure of \$75,000,000. In the case of Canada, after pointing out the dependence of Great Britain upon the forests of the Dominion, especially those of Canada, describing the efforts of the various forestry organizations, and urging the extending and the speeding up of their work, the Committee makes this statement: "The forest capital of Canada is growing less year by year. This, we submit, is an Imperial question of first magnitude which deserves immediate attention of the Imperial and Dominion Governments." As the result of the recommendations of this Committee, an Imperial Forestry Conference was held in Great Britain in the summer of 1920. Six delegates attended from Canada, Quebec's representatives being Ellwood Wilson, Chief Forester to the Laurentide Company, and Mr. Bédard, Assistant Chief Forester to the Quebec Government. Among other things, the Conference recommended: complete surveys of forest resources in the various dominions and the gathering of data on the rate of growth and regeneration. It stated that such data were absolutely essential to rational and economic management of the forests.

An Imperial Question

The Imperial Forestry Conference marks another period in the history of our forest treatment. The direct interest of the Empire in how we

(Continued on page 800.)

"AFTER"



What Was Left of Highwood River Spruce after Fire.