

Foresters and Canada's Conservation Policy

In the last days of the month of July a gathering of prominent foresters from both sides of the international boundary took place at Grand'mere, Quebec, the woodsmen being the guests of the Laurentide Paper Company.

The procedure of the convention was, after the ways of woodsmen, free from the rigid formality which usually accompanies such conferences, yet without doubt, the few days these American and Canadian guardians of the continent's forests spent together will have a wide influence on matters of international forestry and much benefit result from the informal discussion and interchange of views, ideas and researches. Certainly the most harmonious relations exist between the services on either side of the line, and this meeting, with its attendant open discussion and frank exchange of opinion, is conducive to its continuance, both among the foresters and allied industries.

Gathering of the Clans.

Such well-known authorities as Austin Carey, one-time Superintendent of Forestry of New York State, later Forestry Professor of Harvard and now of the United States Forestry Service at Washington, and Professor C. D. Howe of the University of Toronto, were there. The former is the author of forestry text books widely used, and the latter has for some years been conducting experiments on natural reproduction for the Commission of Conservation. There were forestry chiefs from New Jersey, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont and Ottawa, as well as fire wardens, representatives of large lumber concerns and allied interests, Professors of Forestry, and Principals of Colleges of Forestry.

The principal object of interest to these men, in view of the denuded forest lands of the United States, and one for which they had much praise, was the system of reforestation carried out by the company. In 1916, north of the mills at Grand'mere, nurseries were established on cut-over land, and splendid work has been done since that time by the superintendent of forestry, Elwood Wilson. At these nurseries there are 27 acres of beds of infant trees from a few months to four years old and 20 acres in preparation for extension. Experimentation is being carried out on white spruce, Norway spruce, white pine, Douglas fir, yellow pine, jack pine, and red pine for future supplies of commercial wood, and on ash, elm and Carolina poplar for shade, landscapes and windbreaks. In the brief period since the system of reforestation was inaugurated, 2,000 acres have been replanted and some fine stands of sturdy young trees are to be seen on the various plantations. The company, which owns 2,300 square miles of timber, operates on a large scale, producing 225 tons of pulp wood per day and 50 tons of board. Mr. Wilson and his assistant maintain a regular staff of four men, which in the busy seasons of spring and fall are temporarily increased to 30 or 40 hands. Up to date this year 800,000 saplings have been set out; last year one million trees were replaced; and it is hoped to reach a capacity of 4,000,000 new trees per annum. The present work, it may be noted, is replanting much in excess of the cutting.

The Utilization of Hydroplanes.

Another very interesting feature of woods work in which the company has been a pioneer, is the utilization of hydroplanes for aerial survey, fire patrol and protection. A staff of two pilots and four mechanics control two Curtiss hydroplanes, and the brief period these ex-army

men have been operating has proved conclusively, in the opinion of the management, the value of this service, so that it is the intention of the company to extend the already varied phases of aerial work by acquiring a larger staff and more planes, which will permit of the transportation of survey and working parties by air and maintain a regular communication between headquarters and isolated woods posts.

Aerial photography in the hands of these men has been an intense study and the value of air observations firmly established. By the compilation of a photographic dictionary by the staff it is possible to interpret any photograph with accuracy, and the student with its aid can determine the significance of sections which to the layman are merely blotches of varying intensity conveying nothing. By an intelligent following of the book, differing shades can yield interpretations of such slight differences as some of the following:—water, grass, swamp, meadow land, ploughed land, small bush, thin black spruce, tamarac, hardwood conifer, conifer reproduction, recently cleared land, stump land, barren burn, large white birch, small birch. The photographing is done by the pilot of the machine and 150 miles of land and forest can be photographed in one day.—From "Agricultural and Industrial Progress in Canada."

Langley, British Columbia.—A scrub cow, without even the dignity of a name, belonging to John Pranghorst, in this district, has achieved a record of which a royal Holstein or Jersey might be proud. In a seven-day test she produced 348 pounds of milk containing 4.6 per cent. of butter fat, which if maintained throughout the year would mean an annual yield of 20,096 pounds which is not such a great distance from the world's record. The cow is just scrub, with no social standing, her sire and dam unknown. She has never had any care, received no scientific dieting but rustled for her food in a forty acre plot. No barn sheltered her, but she chewed her lonely cud at night underneath the stars. Under these hard conditions she has produced this enviable record, rarely equalled, upsetting a good many theories and proving blood is not everything.

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