

# "RED WING"

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### PROTECT THE YOUNG FORESTS

Future Timber Industry Depends on To-day's Fire Prevention

"The fire was confined to the brush; no damage was done." How often do we see this in the reports of forest fires? The "brush" referred to is nearly always composed of young growing forests, which have not as yet attained merchantable size. One would be quite as much justified in saying: "A thousand acres of wheat was destroyed by hail, but as the crop was not ripe, no damage was done." Unfortunately, this attitude towards young timber is prevalent even among lumbermen and members of forest protection services whose contact with the forests should enable them to realize the length of time it takes to grow a forest crop, and its prospective value. Too often, little or no effort is made to stop forest fires until timber of merchantable size is endangered. The writer was out with a forest ranger in British Columbia not long ago, when a fire was noticed on a mountain-side covered with the finest stand of young Douglas fir and red cedar one could wish to see. When the ranger's attention was called to it, he said, "Let it burn;

it's only young stuff." This particular stand was about 20 years old. The largest trees were 3 to 4 inches in diameter and 20 to 25 feet high. It is true that it had no present value for timber, but, in another 30 years, it would, in all probability, cut 20,000 board feet per acre; at the present stumpage value, it would then be worth at least \$1.75 per 1,000 feet, or \$35.00 per acre. Since 20 out of the 50 years of growth had been attained, the present value of the stand can safely be placed at two-fifths of the final merchantable value, or \$14.00 per acre.

What the value of standing timber will be when these young forests become of commercial value, no one can predict. If the history of stumpage values in the past may be accepted as a guide, it may be safely assumed that it will enhance sufficiently to more than cover the expense of protection.

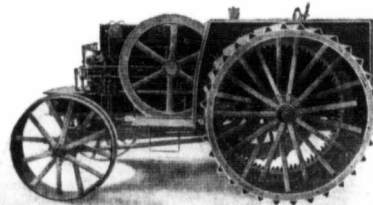
Canada is beginning to worry about the depletion of its forests. If we protect the young growth which nature is striving to establish, our forest industries will always be supplied with raw material.—R.D.C.

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