

Questions and Answers on Forestry

Q. Is Canada supplying most of the oak used for interior finishing in our homes and public buildings?

A. By no means. We now import the greater part of our oak, ash and elm from the United States. Hickory is also an imported article. These woods grew on our best agricultural lands and were the first to be destroyed.

Q. How much of Canada's lumber cut is used annually by Canadians?

A. Not more than one-sixth. The United States is our greatest market for forests products.

Q. Is Scotland planning to afforest her waste lands?

A. Yes, and is making excellent progress. Scotland has an acreage of 19 million acres. The existing reserve of woodland is just 650,000 acres. During the next ten years 125,000 additional acres will be planted with timber trees. The British Isles are enormous wood consumers and yet hold the smallest percentage of area under timber of any old-world nation except Portugal. A great programme of forestry is now under way.

Q. Is it true that Canada faces a timber famine?

A. Not true in the sense of a bread or clothing famine. There could be a timber famine with a general decay of our industries and decrease in population even though the casual observer could see plenty of trees about the country. Timber can only be profitably cut when in relatively dense stands. A few scattered trees do not make a stand and such trees would make enormously expensive lumber if cut. The present danger is that our forests are growing steadily thinner, the burnt areas are rapidly extending, and valuable species are disappearing. Canada needs constructive forest policies.



A river of logs—the raw material of Canadian pay-envelopes and the bulwork of export trade.

Q. How many forest fires, large and small, do we have in Canada in an average year?

A. Five thousand would be a fair estimate. Ontario alone had 1,269 forest fires this year, burning over 750,000 acres, and the Government spent \$78,000 on fighting them. In the United States this year, more than 14,000 forest fires broke out in the pulpwood regions alone.

Q. What causes our forest fires; is there any means of preventing them?

A. Ninety forest fires in every hundred are started by settlers, railroads, cam-

pers, smokers, and other human elements, very few by lightning. These men require the timber areas to give them occupation or recreation, yet their personal carelessness is killing one of Canada's mightiest assets.

Q. Has not Canada the largest forest resources of any country in the world?

A. No. The United States possesses about three times as much timber as Canada, and Russia is regarded as much better endowed with timber than the United States of America.

A New Portable Fire Pump Proves its Metal

Some months ago an article was published in the Canadian Forestry Journal describing a new forest fire fighting appliance introduced in the Canadian National Parks. The appliance in question was a large rotary fire pump built into the body of an automobile. This outfit was developed for the purpose of promptly and efficiently dealing with forest fires along the highways in Rocky Mountains Park (Banff) and Kootenay Park which adjoins it where there is approximately 200 miles of motor highway. Naturally the highways are so largely used that there is constant danger of forest fires along their borders. The small portable fire unit developed by the Dominion

Parks Branch some years ago has proved to be a very efficient fire fighting instrument but it was felt that insofar as highway work is concerned an outfit of much greater capacity and capable of self transportation was necessary to meet the special conditions concerning highways. The new unit developed being built into an automobile can be transported at high speed and therefore can promptly reach fires a long distance away. In addition it throws a stream of 125 gallons per minute as compared with the 20-gallon stream of the small portable unit.

The first unit of this variety has been tried out in the field during the past season and its success from the start has been so

great that the Parks Service has already ordered one additional unit and has requests from the superintendents of every forest park for similar units.

The new engine has been tried out in half-a-dozen or more fires in Rocky Mountains Park. After the first fire at which it was used the following report was received from the Superintendent of Rocky Mountains Park:—

"Last Sunday a fire started between the railway and the highway, about two miles east of Anthracite. Mr. Sibbald with the Fire Truck immediately proceeded to the fire, and water was turned on five minutes