



Idle forest land in Canada which rapidly denegerated to dangerous sand dunes, and was later planted with pine and spruce.

than five per cent. of the virgin forests of New England and but twelve per cent. of her original stand of timber are left. New York, the leading state in lumber production in 1850, now manufactures only thirty board feet per capita yearly, or not more than a tenth of the requirements of her own population and industries.

The original pine forests of the Lake States, estimated at 350 billion feet, are now reduced to less than eight billion. In 1892 the sawmills in the region bordering the Great Lakes cut nine billion board feet of lumber and largely supplied the softwood markets of the Prairie and Central States and eastward to New England. To-day their yearly cut is a single billion. These four densely populated regions, stretching from the Atlantic to the Prairies, which formerly were lumber exporters and still contain enormous areas of forest land, are now partly or largely dependent upon timber grown and manufactured elsewhere and are becoming increasingly dependent upon timber which must be shipped the width of the continent.

The bulk of the building and structural timbers used in the eastern and central states during the last twenty years was grown in the pine forests of the south. But the cut of southern pine is now falling off and within another decade promises to exceed by little, if at all, the requirements of the southern states

themselves. The shifting of the hardwood industries has followed much the same course. The principal reserve of hardwoods is in the Southern Mississippi Valley, and even here it is doubtful if the cut of hardwood lumber can be materially increased for any great length of time. The scarcity of high grade oak, poplar, ash, hickory, walnut and other standard hardwoods is now confronting many industries with a difficult situation.

#### *Must be Close at Hand*

One-half of the timber remaining in the Continental United States is in three States bordering the Pacific Ocean. Sixty-one per cent. of it lies west of the Great Plains. Since 1894 western timber has been filling gaps in the eastern and middle western markets. Within the past year it has assumed a dominating place in the principal markets of the States and has largely replaced southern pine at many consuming points in the Central States. It is estimated that within the next decade the shortage of nearer timber will compel the eastern and central states to increase their annual consumption of western lumber by eleven and one-half billion board feet.

The true index of timber depletion is not the quantity that is left but its availability. This is shown partly in the cost of transporting the average thousand feet of lumber from the saw mill to the