

St. Maurice having to procure pulpwood from the northern forests of the lower St. Lawrence to supplement the wasted resources nearer home. Nor are these conditions alone peculiar to the St. Maurice. New Ontario is making rapid strides towards copying the destructive methods of old Ontario. Even British Columbia will wake up before long to find that statistical experts have their peculiarities.

When we realize that pulp wood and lumber operations annually cut clean an area of two to three million acres leaving little or no chance for reforestation, natural or otherwise, perhaps someone whose business it is to think of these things will "start something." All power to him when he does!

But the question persists,—what is the solution of the difficulty?

How are we to prevent the wiping out of our coniferous forests?

#### *A Question of Cost*

It is purely a question of cost—not exorbitant either. And it is not necessarily "up to" the Governments, though experience teaches that they may properly be requested to keep their politicians out of the discussion. The solution should be brought about by the manufacturers of forest products and when they convene to this end they must be permitted to co-operate without having unjust accusations of price-manipulation hurled at them. For be it understood that if Canadian forests are to be saved from destruction they must be properly managed—call it scientific or practical management, if you wish, but it will be pure common sense nevertheless. And it will cost something; just how much is difficult to estimate, but the point is that the consumer obviously must pay for it. Hitherto the cost of spruce pulpwood has been so low that the ordinary man could see no advantage in conserving something that had no particular value. Waste therefore started in the lumber camp and has been maintained right through to the

press room where it reached its maximum.

Since the forest provides the raw product for the largest industry in Canada, the manufacturer of pulp and paper with whom rests the initiative in this vital matter is about due to act in no uncertain manner for the conservation of the forest by proper management and operation.

He realizes or should realize that it takes one hundred and fifty years to grow a mature spruce forest but by taking advantage of the natural conditions offered in our existing forests the period of maximum volume growth may be perpetuated with the result that a vastly greater forest crop may be relied upon. We know, for instance, that trees grow by accretion of outer rings—adding one each year, therefore the larger the tree the greater will be the volume of accretion. The idea in operation then is to keep the forest at that stage of maximum annual increment cutting only the largest trees and leaving the other immature ones undamaged by too much thinning or insufficient cutting—a process to be guided by local conditions and under experienced men. Proper management further requires the suppression of inferior or damaging species, also seeding or planting where necessary to assist or supplement nature's efforts.

#### *Wider Areas of Operation*

All this necessitates operation each year over very large areas compared with the areas now cut clean and left to utter destruction as forest land. It will require intricate road systems, gradual cleaning up of underbrush, permanent camps and steady expansion to eventually embrace the whole of our forests—a process that must necessarily take many years to complete. The capital expenditure involved will be great but no better investment could be undertaken when considered on a permanent basis looking to the future.

Once the system is established, operating costs will become much less but, whatever happens, pulp-