

FORESTRY PROGRESS IN NEWFOUNDLAND

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How Lord Northcliffe's Company Aims to Maintain its Forests as a Permanent Crop



About 15 years ago it was first realized that Newfoundland's forests, comprising about 8,000,000 acres on the Island itself, were better adapted for pulpwood than for saw-logs only. Previous to this time sawn timber had been shipped to Europe and South America. The superior adaptability of these forests for pulp and paper manufacture is due to several reasons. Among these might be mentioned the predominance of spruce and fir over white pine in quantity, the most accessible of the latter having been logged to a considerable extent. The comparatively small size of the spruce and fir made its utilization as pulp more economical than sawing it into lumber. Large rivers, with good power sites and extensive drainage basins well watered with drivable streams, afforded a choice of several mill-sites with ample power and with plenty of timber tributary to the mills by water. Newfoundland is 1,000 miles nearer Europe than are the chief Canadian ports.

One of the companies earliest in the field was the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Ltd., which obtained its charter in 1905. This company was organized by Lord Northcliffe and associates, who chose the valley of the River of Exploits after obtaining reports on several alternative locations, both in Eastern Canada and

Newfoundland.

The A. E. Reed (Newfoundland) Company, Limited, about the same time located at Bishop's Falls, on the lower Exploits, nine miles below Grand Falls, the site selected by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Co., Limited.

These two companies are both financed by British capital, and are the only pulp and paper companies yet operating in the colony.

When Fire-Fighting Began.

It is safe to say that the inception of any forest laws in the colony was due to the efforts of these two companies. At the very beginning of the pulp and paper mill development it was seen that the colony's annual fire losses were disastrous in the extreme, and that, in short, another 20 years of unchecked fire losses would practically complete the total destruction of all the timber in the country. Fires were especially extensive after the completion of the cross-country railway in the '90's. These two companies brought this matter strongly before the Government of the day, with the result that the Forest Fires Act was passed. This Act was admirable in itself, but at first was not very successful, because of insufficient patrols and lack of inspection. Later, again at the suggestion of these two pulp and paper concerns, and other



The London Daily Mail in the making. Lord Northcliffe's pulpwood pile at Grand Falls, Nfd.
(Courtesy Natural Resources Intelligence Bureau.)