

as inexhaustible; but to-day large numbers of the wood-working establishments of that State have to import their raw materials from other parts of the continent, and the saw mills have had to depend for their operations on logs imported from Ontario, until the recent law of that province compelled the cutting of the logs on the Canadian side, to the great advantage of the Ontario lumber industry. The pulp mills of northern New York\* having eaten into the heart of the Adirondack Mountains have now to turn to Canada for a greater proportion of their supplies, while the pulp mills of Wisconsin, supposed also to have an inexhaustible supply of raw material in their own State, have, during 1907, been compelled to haul pulpwood by rail to the extent of about 70,000 cords all the way from the Province of Quebec to eke out their supplies. The last-named development is to some extent due to the conditions of water supply and difficulty of getting timber from the woods, but the irregular water supply is itself due to the exhaustion of the great forest areas and all the facts tend to show the sure approach of the great crisis referred to, and to explain why some twenty-seven states of the American Union have already introduced, while a dozen other states are preparing to introduce, legislation to check this devastation and recover, if possible, the waste already wrought.

Apart from the Adirondacks and the Wisconsin and adjoining regions, the forests of Maine have been cited as furnishing inexhaustible supplies of timber, and as being able to supply the pulp mills of the United States for all time. No doubt these estimates have been believed by those who made them, as was the case with those who believed the forests of Michigan were sufficient for that State's needs, but it is a noteworthy fact that during the present year the International Paper Co., of New York, has obtained wharfing facilities at Portland, Me., to which port it is bringing vessels with cargoes of pulpwood from the coasts of Quebec and New Brunswick for its own mills in New England, some of them in the State of Maine itself, while other American companies have obtained large timber limits in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Northern and Eastern Quebec, with the same object of keeping up the supplies of wood no longer obtainable at home, except at greater expense. Counting the negotiations under way at the present moment for the acquisition of timber tracts in Eastern Canada, United States paper and pulp companies have purchased from 12,000 to 15,000 square miles of Canadian spruce limits. The Union Bag and Paper Co., which owns over 2,000 square miles of spruce limits in Quebec, recently explained to its shareholders, as the reason of reducing its dividend from 7 to 4 per cent., that it was necessary to acquire large bodies of timber in Canada "on account of the rapid increase in the market price of pulpwood, and the rapid disappearance of the spruce forests of this continent." This is, of course, the only reason the other large companies have for buying timber lands in Canada.

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\*The 108 pulp mills of New York have a yearly capacity of 987,000 cords of wood, and estimating a growth of 10 cords per acre, these mills would strip close upon 100,000 acres per year. If to this is added the cut for the lumber mills of the State, (estimated by the census of 1900 at about 245,000,000 feet), such a rate of consumption would exhaust the whole spruce supply of the Adirondacks in seven years, if these mills were confined to the timber of that region.