

or four times as much timber as Canada.

In the days when Jacques Cartier sailed his little ship up the St. Lawrence route, almost every acre of the Dominion except the prairies was covered with trees, interspersed with thousands of lakes and streams. Why the prairies are treeless is not exactly known, although the most likely explanation is Fire. Now if all the people were taken out of Canada tomorrow, it is likely that in the course of centuries the millions of acres of bare farms in Eastern Canada and British Columbia would all be matted over by tree growth once more. We want no such thing to happen. We ought to take away from the trees every acre that will grow farm crops, because the world needs food. Moreover, farm crops come every year while forest crops come only in half a century or more. On good farming land, a man could make far more money from wheat or oats than from growing trees. But this brings us to a very interesting question: how much of Canada is made for growing forests and how much for growing farms? In Ungava and in the great stretches west of Hudson's Bay up to the Arctic Circle, there may never be any considerable population. But excluding those vast regions of Canada, how many acres in what remains were made by Mother Nature for growing farm crops and how many for growing forests? Eight acres out of every ten are unfit for farming and were intended either for growing useful crops of timber, which all of us need day by day, or to remain as barren stretches of rock and soggy marshes. Of course you and I know plenty of places where nearly every acre within sight is splendid for farming, but we are speaking now of Canada as a whole.

#### Definition of Forestry.

That brings us to a definition of Forestry. You know the word Agriculture which means making the most profitable use out of the soil. Forestry is best understood when we use another name—Silviculture. Like Agriculture, Silviculture also tries to make the best use out of the soil, but it asks not one acre that the farmer needs, being willing to take only the lighter and poorer lands. The man who works the Canadian farm and the man who develops the Canadian forest therefore are business partners. When one prospers, the other cannot help but gain.

I do not need to tell you that a

good farm, rightly used, will be yielding good crops a hundred years hence. That is exactly how the Forester regards a Forest. He believes in keeping the forest yielding crops of wood for all time to come, instead of treating it as a silver mine to be gouged out once and then abandoned as a useless hole in the ground. Somebody said once that without the Tin Can New York City would be impossible. He meant that unless a method of preserving food supplies cheaply had been discovered, it would be physically impossible to feed the five million New Yorkers three times a day with fresh food delivered from farms.

#### Owes Life to Forests.

It is even truer that our Modern Canada owes its life to the possession of splendid forests. Our railways must have a wooden tie or sleeper for every yard of track. Just one of the telegraph companies in this country requires 50,000 telegraph poles each year to replace those put out of service. Not a ton of coal would be raised from any coal mine unless train loads of wooden props had first been put in position. No fisherman would earn a livelihood without a wooden boat and boxes and barrels. No farmer would cultivate his land until he first was assured of a wooden house, barns, fence posts, wagons, implements, and fuel. How many of us would care to reside in a house without wooden furniture, wooden floors, or musical instruments. Truly the uses of wood in our daily lives are almost beyond accounting. We must not forget, however, the daily and weekly newspaper which is very largely a product of ground-up wood. How necessary the newspaper has become in all our homes! And yet it is just one more of the great gifts derived from the Canadian forest. How many newspapers do you suppose are printed every day in the United States and Canada? Forty millions. In the course of a year, the hunger of the newspaper press demands a pile of wood four feet long, four feet high and nine thousand miles long. You would have to build that woodpile right across Canada from Halifax to Vancouver, then back to Halifax and make a return trip to Vancouver.

Of course, we are interested in all these facts about the forest for one chief reason. We want to make the forests of Canada do us the greatest service. We want them to build up hundreds of new towns to make the paper and the lumber and the fur-

niture. We want them to attract hundreds of thousands of people to Canada's shores. But the thing is not as simple as it sounds.

#### A Determined Fight.

We have a determined fight ahead of us, involving on one side all courageous Canadians and on the other side the Forest Fire Fiend. This invader has taken from our nation two thirds of the great forests we once possessed. Each year, it demands a heavy ransom. And yet, it is mostly our own fault that such an unwelcome visitor should dwell in this country any longer. The forest fire fiend is burning down enormous forests, he is destroying precious lives, he is turning hundreds of homes to ashes every Spring, Summer and Fall. We are trying to build up a League of the Children of Canada to overthrow this useless monster and I am sure the co-operation of every boy and girl is already assured.

How can it be done?

Nearly all forest fires start with a pair of careless human hands.

If we could have every Canadian watching his finger tips and thinking what damage they can do and what prevent while in the forest, there would be very few disastrous fires.

Let us finish our subject for this time, however, by asking and answering one simple question:

"What can I do to preserve the forests of Canada?"

The best man to answer that is a veteran hunter and guide. He has seen more fires start than any of us and knows the causes exactly:

"Never toss away burning matches or cigarettes. Warn anyone with you of the great danger of lighted matches or tobacco in a forest area.

"Never start a fire in the woods among leaves, dry wood, or against a log, or against any tree whether it be dead or alive.

Never start a fire in the moss or peat of a dry bog. It may smoulder for days and at last develop into a great calamity.

Try to build your camp fire on a rocky shore, or else scrape away the top soil until you reach earth or gravel.

Finally, be sure to put the fire out before you leave the camp. Cover the embers with earth or water.

But if you catch sight of a fire started from any cause, notify the nearest ranger, or station agent or any public official."