

A Survey of Sugar Groves

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A survey of maple sugar groves in various parts of the province was begun last fall by the Forestry Branch. The object of this survey is to gather accurate data on the following:

1. The proportion of the various species of trees in each grove, to determine the influence, if any, of a mixture of trees on the yield of the sap, etc., etc.

2. The influence of the soil.

3. The influence of the topography of the ground.

4. The temperature.

Notes are also made on the equipment available, the methods of tapping the trees, of gathering the sap and also on the yield of sap, by species of maples, by a number of trees, and as influenced by the frost.

Information is also being gathered on the methods of making syrup and sugar, and, finally, a statement showing the profits or losses of the industry will be made up.

All reports will be compiled at the Forestry Branch by counties and by districts; thus before long complete and careful statistics concerning this valuable industry will be available.

Sugar now sells at a high price. It is, therefore, in the interest of our farmers to work their sugar groves so as to secure their own supply of sugar and syrup.

All the owners of sugar groves desiring to help in the survey are invited to write to the chief of the Forestry Branch, Quebec, who will be glad to receive any information that can be given.

B. C. Gets Forest Products Laboratories

Efforts which have quietly been exerted for several months past, looking to the establishment in Vancouver of a branch of the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada, are now certain of success. The new laboratory will be equipped at the outset with all necessary machinery and appliances for the carrying out of wood testing experiments on the lines pursued at the parent laboratory maintained by the Dominion Forestry Branch at McGill University, Montreal, where invaluable work has been carried on. Scientific demonstrations in tree chemistry were initiated in 1913, the wood-testing department being added in 1914. It is proper to mention here that the setting up of the Forest Products Laboratories by the Canadian Government was due to recognition of the great work done for the lumber and pulp industries at the United States Laboratories at Madison, Wis., established six or seven years ago.

This institution really represents the joining up of a number of wood-testing stations built up in various parts of the United States years earlier by Dr. Fernow, who at that time held the position of chief forester to the United States Government.

The result of the many requests reaching the Dominion authorities from the coast—the more especially since the starting of the spruce production campaign by the aeronautical branch of the Imperial Munitions Board—was seen in the arrival at Vancouver late in March of W. B. Campbell, B.Sc., assistant superintendent of the Montreal Laboratories, with instructions to communicate with the B. C. Forest Branch, the Munition Board, B. C. University heads, and leading lumbermen, with a view to the speedy establishment here of a wood-testing unit which doubtless will, after the war, form the nucleus of a much larger scheme to be carried out in behalf