

Nova Scotia's  
future depends  
on this!

Export trade in forest, farm and sea products is the main hope of large provincial development. It is the magnet to new population, the trump card in the vastly keener competition of post-bellum days when Nova Scotia must either send superior goods, produced at low cost, to foreign shores or find foreign-made goods battling home products out of its own market.

Wood products in themselves form a chief item of present export, capable of vast development. Forest depletion not only negatives the growth of Nova Scotia lumber and pulp mills, but must pull down to mediocrity the wooden ship building industry and its expectation of home cargoes. It does more than that. The ability of the apple grower to sell abroad profitably depends upon his ability to produce cheaply. If he cannot obtain cooperage material or can obtain it only at high cost, his importance as an exporter is diminished to that degree. So with the fisherman.

The present condition of the Nova Scotia forests, taken as a whole, indicates a progressive decline. Fires have taken a monstrous toll of what originally was an endowment of incalculable worth. To be sure, the *cutting* of timber was not managed on a principle of continuous reproduction, but fires undoubtedly have been the chief degenerative factor. Had fires been debarred by modern protective means and by cultivation of a conservation sentiment amongst persons who cause the fires, there is no doubt whatever that lumber mills instead of reducing activities would have added to plant and to number of employees, developing their towns, providing new demand for farm and fisheries products and taking more vigorous hold of export trade opportunities. There is, of course, small satisfaction in basing a forecast upon impossible premises. The original forest wealth of Nova Scotia has largely been forfeited. Today not more than 100,000 acres of virgin forest remain. Two-thirds of the forest area has changed from the pine, spruce and other conifers, on which the modern mill exists, to the secondary hardwoods which form a minor item of commerce. This is the unfortunate situation of the permanent timber crop covering about *eighty per cent.* of the entire provincial area. As that eighty per cent. is non-agricultural, the greatest problem now facing the people of Nova Scotia is to block the forces that are leading the main portion of the provincial estate to the edge of ruin and then to institute such measures as will hasten its restoration. No question that can possibly confront Nova Scotians has more than a fraction of the urgency associated with this enterprise of repairing the forest foundations that uphold the walls of prosperity.