

while called "reserves" are actually put to many and varied uses. They are of supreme value as storage capacity for the flood waters of the great prairie rivers. Practically the whole of the eastern slope of the Rockies is now in reserve, and upon this slope being kept under forest depends much of the fertility of the prairie country. The timber on the reserves is viewed as a growing crop held in trust for the people of the west. It provides timber and fuel for settlers and on the grazing lands within the reserve boundaries more than 100,000 head of stock obtain sustenance. Game hunting and recreation are other excellent uses of these forest reserves of the prairie provinces.

Q.—I am told that in the aeroplane forest surveys last year there was not a single fatal accident. Is it true?

A.—Almost. In 181,000 miles of flying by the Dominion Air Board last summer, only one man was killed and that was distinctly his own fault.

Q.—Is it a fact that Canadians sell more forest products to Uncle Sam than farm products?

A.—In 1920, Canada's sales of forest products to the United States represented \$8 per head of Canadian population. Our agricultural sales to Uncle Sam were only \$5.90 per head. Our mineral were \$4.50 per head, and fisheries \$2.10 per head. The forests of Canada have undoubtedly been the greatest power in stabilizing the exchange rate.

Q.—Has anyone managed to get Henry Ford interested in the practice of forestry?

A.—Some one evidently has. Mr. Ford is now a Forester, along with his other duties. He has bought a forest and is starting a system of scientific management that should keep the timber crop reproducing for all time to come. It is in Michigan near his iron mines. Mr. Ford recently stated that he is "convinced that the public interest demands a fundamental change in the management of our forest wealth."

Q.—I am told that artificial silk is made out of Canadian spruce wood. What is the difference between artificial and real silk?

A.—Artificial silk is practically the same substance chemically as natural silk, the retort and test tube of the chemist having been called upon to convert woodpulp into cellulose and then into silk by mechanical processes, just as the silk worm within its body converts the mulberry leaf into cellulose and then spins its cocoon. The artificial silk goods are sometimes harsher in feel-



Dominion forest rangers' headquarters at Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Photo by kindness of Mr. A. Rafton-Canning.

ing than the natural, but advanced manufacture is rapidly eliminating this defect.

Q.—How many men are employed in Canada's lumber industry and what are they paid in wages?

A.—There are about sixty thousand men and their wages run to sixty million dollars a year. There are approximately four thousand wood manufacturing establishments in Canada outside of the pulp and paper industry.

Q. Is it possible for this Ontario municipality to obtain free trees from the Ontario Government Nursery and to get free supervision of the planting work?

A.—At the last session of the Ontario Legislature, provision was made for supplying to any municipality which previously has come into possession of an area of waste land free tree stock from the Government Nursery and supervision of the planting work at the government's expense. It is also provided that the timber from such land at maturity shall be the property of the municipality. The government gets nothing out of it except

the performance of a highly important public duty.

Q.—Is there much likelihood of lumber and wood products in general becoming cheaper in the next five years?

A.—There probably will be variations in the present market but the prospects for what our grandfathers would call cheap lumber and cheap paper are rather dim. We are using up our forest wealth in Canada far faster than nature is growing it and forest fires are destroying many times what we annually cut. To keep our forests in productive condition more money must be spent upon forest protection, upon burning of debris, the combating of forest insect diseases and other constructive measures. The product of the forest must stand this increased cost so that it is very doubtful if we will ever see again Canadian lumber and pulp and paper products at old-fashioned prices. The trouble is that we Canadians have been living not on the annual increment or interest of the forest, but taking a large slice of capital as well. This of course must stop or the nation will face actual timber bankruptcy.



Forested Country on Peace River below Little Rapids.