

## FACTS FOR THE WEST TO DEAL WITH

(From the Manitoba Free Press)

That one path of future prosperity in Manitoba lies in developing the enormous possibilities in timber and pulp wood growing was explained to a special meeting of the Winnipeg bankers' and mortgage companies' managers yesterday afternoon by Robson Black, Secretary of the Canadian Forestry Association. Mr. Black addressed a meeting at Young Church Sunday night, and spoke again at Grace Church last evening, with motion picture illustrations. A total of ten meetings have been held in Winnipeg.

Forestry, said Mr. Black, is the science of obtaining maximum profits from a great natural resource. It is concerned with growing repeated crops of timber on non-agricultural soils; 75 per cent of Manitoba is under tree growth and not more than 35 per cent of the whole provincial area will ever pay a profit to the farmers' plow. One-third of Saskatchewan and Alberta are adapted by nature for the growing of profitable crops of timber. The timber and pulp wood of Manitoba, therefore, is the largest crop in point of acreage, and in view of the experience of such provinces as Quebec and New Brunswick and nations like Sweden, it offers incredibly great potentialities.

"Since Confederation the forest areas of Canada have been responsible for over 1,500 million dollars of export trade as compared with 2,000 million dollars received for cereal crops. This year pulp and paper exports alone from the spruce growing sections of Quebec, Ontario and to a smaller extent from British Columbia have jumped to 120 millions, as against 120 dollars in 1890—a million times as great."

### THE PROFIT IN CONSERVING.

Mr. Black told how spruce areas in United States and Canada were making enormous rises in value. Forty million newspapers a day are produced on this continent and this publishing industry alone makes prodigious demands upon the very limited sources of spruce wood supply. Several American newspapers stripped from 15 to 30 acres of forest for each Sunday edition turned out. The Winnipeg daily papers were consuming probably 250 spruce and balsam trees with each day's run. Coupled with the

lumbering industry the pulp and paper industry had shown the old time phrase of "exhaustless forests" to be nothing short of undiluted moonshine. These industries in the eastern States and Canada were now coming forward with schemes which approximated scientific forest management. The day of forest butchery must end or the country ceases to be an international competitor. The history of the lumbering industry has been one of a continuous chase of virgin timber supplies from county to county, east to west, and north to south. President Dodge, of the International Paper Company, recently declared that there were not to-day two stands of spruce in eastern America that would justify the erection of two fifty-ton pulp mills. In eastern United States the last stand of the great American lumber industry was now being made in the south after stripping Maine, Wisconsin, Michigan and other lake states. The president of the Southern Pine Manufacturers has declared that 3,000 mills under his jurisdiction will go out of business in ten years because of exhausted forests.

### LOSING FORESTS RAPIDLY.

Turning to Canada, the speaker showed that the forest resources in the three prairie provinces except for the areas in the forest reserves, are in a state of progressive deterioration. Eighty per cent of the west's original inheritance of splendid forests has been destroyed by forest fires in recent times. Mr. Black declared that few, if any, lumbermen and pulp company executives in eastern America were any longer deluded by the old fiction that unregulated logging at present in vogue throughout the Dominion will do anything but destroy the capital values of a timber area. Hence European practice now centuries old which looked upon a timber tract as a source of permanent timber crops was now being adapted to American and Canadian conditions. As far as the three western provinces are concerned this calls emphatically for the handling of the public-owned timber berths by the Dominion Forestry Branch, which is the Government's only technically qualified department.