

profits were certain and permanent. One advocate stated the case thus: "No one item of our available exports is of higher importance than potashes and pearl ashes. In a country where it is necessary that vast tracts of wild land should be cleared,—land covered with a heavy growth of timber, useless in the main for other purposes than the manufacture of ashes,—this needs only to be looked at to discover its utility."

To-day the forests of Ontario are worth for other industries twenty to thirty times the value of their potash and Canadian lumbermen will learn with vexation that in the tract referred to,—that is, the region lying between London and Detroit,—the timber spoken of as worthless for any use other than potash, comprised birch, beech, oak, pine, maple, elm, cherry, hickory, ironwood, black walnut and many other woods which are now rare and costly.

With the clearing of the forests of Eastern Canada the potash industry declined, and this decline was hastened by the opening of the great deposits of Stassfurt, Germany. But since the war has cut off the German supply, and since Great Britain, the United States, and Canada and the other British Dominions seem to have determined that they shall be self-dependent as to such products, the present problem is to discover new sources of potash and nitrates,—both essential in the field of agriculture, as well as in chemistry. While it is true that in Canada and the United States there has been throughout the last hundred years an enormous waste of material in almost every industry, and none of greater enormity than in wood, yet all that can now be saved of the remnants of our forests will never restore the potash industry on the old basis. It will be interesting to note that the Town of New Toronto is now installing under the supervision of its engineers, Messrs. James, Loudon & Hertzberg, a system of incineration for the treatment of garbage, by which potash is recovered to the value of \$7 to \$10 per ton. Thirty of these were installed at the military camps in Ontario and I understand they have been adopted in the United States Army camps where a thousand are now in use. Such endeavors to utilize the waste of cities should be encouraged, but, at best, they can only yield a small fraction of the potash required.

There is still, however, a source of potash in the feldspar rocks of America, vaster than has ever been exploited from wood, and without doubt chemists will sooner or later solve the problem of profitably extracting it. There are millions of tons of feldspar rock