

# Forestry and Friends

By Charles Lathrop Pack, President, American Forestry Association.

Through a curious turn of events the two great English-speaking countries of North America are to be brought still closer in friendly relations. The World War, of course, was a great forward step to be taken in that friendliness. We are now about to see, I am told, a minister from the land of the Maple Leaf appointed to represent his government at Washington. This is a step in the right direction. Of late there have been misunderstandings, fostered by these with mistaken motives, but these will soon be swept away. These misunderstandings have come about over the pulp wood and newsprint situation, as it involves the two great countries. I believe it can be honestly stated that out of this misunderstanding there will come, yes, even now has come, the right view point. It all points to the need of a national forest policy on both sides of that imaginary line we call the boundary. I think I am safe in predicting that through national legislation on forestry, the friendship of the two countries will be cemented more closely than ever. If this comes about, and I am sure that it will, it will certainly be a great tribute to those of us both in Canada and the United States who have labored so long and patiently for this reward.

In the United States the newsprint paper problem has resulted in placing the broad problem of forestry before the people. Will it not have the same effect in Canada? Will the outcome not be an awakening to the value of the forests, the backbone of all industry, and will not this result in what we have worked for these many years, a national forest policy with better fire protection as the first step? What a great monument such a result would be to the work that has been done. I see a still greater reward for the forester; the bringing together of the two countries because of their mutual interest in the perpetuation of the forests.

To the forester comes a great opportunity out of the present situation. The publishers are hard pressed; the home builders are hard pressed, and when we find this situation in these two great industries inquiries must naturally result. What have we been doing with our greatest natural resource? At this point the forester comes into his own. His knowledge takes on added value. Every wood using industry cries for action. The action will come slowly, a great lesson is to be learned, and the forester will become the teacher in the great school in which forest perpetuation will be the watchword.

The millions of acres of undeveloped country in the great land to the north of us cannot help but react to the advantage of the United States in that development. We cannot live to ourselves any more than can you, our neighbors, live to yourselves. In the working out of that development comes the still greater friendliness that will result in a united people greeting each other across a dividing line that is found only in geographies. I feel that a broad understanding of our common forestry problems will bring that about.

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