

Idle Forest Land.

The depletion of timber in the United States says "The North Woods" has not resulted primarily from the use of our forests but from their devastation. The kernel of the problem lies in the enormous areas of forest land which are not producing the timber crops that they should. There are 326 million acres of cut-over timberlands in the United States. Their condition ranges from complete devastation, through various stages of partial restocking or restocking with trees of inferior quality, and the whole woodland rapidly increases in value by the elimination of inferior trees.

With an active market for cordwood and for fence posts, poles and lumber there is every inducement to clear out the inferior trees—diseased, dying, crooked, and less valuable kinds. Right cutting also includes the removal of large, sound trees whose growth is slow, because they are nearing or have reached maturity. The cutting should be done only at a time of favorable market condition or when building or other timber is needed on the farm.

Ontario's Need For Cruises.

Officers of the Commission of Conservation, who have been engaged upon the work of making an inventory of the forest resources of Ontario, have been struck by the lack of reliable information regarding the timber conditions in certain regions which have been opened up by railways for some time and for which it might reasonably be expected that fairly accurate and complete data would be available. There is a notable absence of the results of systematic cruising which could very economically be carried out in conjunction with land surveys. Undoubtedly, progress in the work of cruising timber areas was very severely handicapped during the war by the difficulty of securing the necessary staff.

In view of the frequent inquiries from foreign investors for authentic information respecting the timber and pulpwood resources that are available for exploitation in Eastern Canada, it is essential that the work of making thorough timber cruises and of compiling authentic forest

maps be given sufficient staff and funds to ensure immediate and rapid progress. There is little doubt concerning the availability and the eagerness of capital to engage in the development of forest industries—the most urgent need is to make known the situation, character and quantity of the resources that are available for such exploitation. The Commission of Conservation is collecting and collating all of the authentic data that can be obtained in regard to Ontario, but the task is rendered doubly difficult by the fact that over many large and important areas satisfactory cruises have never been made.—*A. V. Gilbert.*

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