

hardwoods; to-day, as a result of patient labour and co-operation over sixty per cent. of the land is growing the highly profitable and rapid-growing Norway spruce. What is to hinder Canadians achieving a like success on their reserves if they just go after it in earnest and leave politics out?

The chaotic conditions found on Canada's reserves to-day are quite similar in general to those of Europe one hundred years ago. Like us, they were then spending about one cent per acre for protection and maintenance and getting in return an infinitesimal revenue. But year after year the Germans, for instance, have been spending more money and getting larger and larger net returns. In 1909 the average expenditure per acre over the entire government-managed forests of Germany was some three dollars and twenty five cents, while the financial net revenue per acre was two dollars and twenty five cents—a net money return of two dollars and twenty five cents per acre, quite outside of all those enormous auxiliary forest benefits which nourish the very life of the nation, quite outside, too, of the living made by the many thousands of workers which is represented in the expenditure of that other three dollars and twenty five cents. Do not forget, however, the long initial period of expenditure, of sacrifice and of patient experiments, of which this grand result is the fruits.

What Will It Pay?

Let us see now about what the Riding Mountain reserve could do as a wealth producer and consumer of labor were it covered, say, even with white spruce—a native species that flourishes there—and we had reached that stage of forestry where the annual cut can be based on the annual growth. The public forestland of France—much of it being thin Alpine soils and in no way comparable to our rich, though stony, Riding

Mountain soils — is producing an average of 240 board feet per acre per year; the Austrian forests, 300; the German forests, 380. Accurate measurements taken on the Pacific Coast show that the climate and soil there will grow six to eight hundred board feet per acre per year. Surely then, the Riding Mountain would grow two hundred. The total for the reserve would thus reach, in round numbers, 200,000,000 board feet a year. That quantity would tax the combined sawing capacity of the great mills of Ottawa and Hull. It would annually supply to each one of fifty saw-mills as much timber as is now being cut each year for all purposes over the whole reserve. The net annual return derived, if we figure stumpage at only five dollars per thousand feet, board measure, would be, on the German 1909 ratio, at least 400,000 dollars. On the basis of the forest labor employed in Saxony, the production and crude manufacture of the above-mentioned crop would support a population of ten thousand workers.

The timbered area of Nova Scotia is only two and a half times the size of this reserve—yet no fewer than 240 saw-mills are now supported by its annual cut, and this cut promises to be maintained and increased by the progressive forest policy being adopted in that province. Again, in Great Britain public opinion is beginning to clamor for an active national forest policy. Take, for instance, the following statement issued in February, 1911, by the General Federation of Trade Unions in the United Kingdom:

‘To absorb surplus labor an urgent appeal is made for afforestation. The employment furnished by the present uses—mostly grazing—to which our wild land is devoted, may be taken to average one man per 1,000 acres. This does not represent one tenth of the permanent employment afforded by the maintenance of a similar area under forest. The labor