

Pulpwood Embargo Facts

Sir,
I can quite realize that my "bombardment" of the newspapers with letters advocating an embargo on unmanufactured wood may be irritating to those who may have some selfish interest at stake, although it is meeting with the unqualified approval of those whose only interest is the public welfare.

Some opponents of the embargo have endeavored to create prejudice by personal attacks on me and my motives in so earnestly advocating an embargo. They lose sight of the fact that it is not a personal question at all but one of national concern, and if my arguments are sound and logical it matters not to the public what my business in-

terests are now or may have been in the past. However, for the discomfiture of those who would try to draw the proverbial red herring across the trail, I will make a few plain statements of fact, all of which can very easily be proven with regard to this securing autonomy of a man who, retired from active business, is willing to devote his time and means to a matter of public interest solely from an altruistic motive.

In the first place, I am merely a plain ordinary man, whose chief qualification is a capacity for hard work and an ardent love of my country. My situation is that having acquired a sufficiency of this world's goods, I divided one-half of my property among the members of my family several years ago and the remaining half I have now dedicated to the work of forest conservation. For the information of those who have insinuated that there are other interests behind my movement, I will say that I am conducting a purely personal campaign which was conceived in my own brain and financed out of my own pocket, and that with the single exception of a casual meeting with one man I have never met nor do not know by sight any of the pulp or paper manufacturers in the Dominion of Canada.

Some of the hirelings of the American opponents of the embargo have suggested that lands which I or my family own in the United States would be benefited by an embargo and that my pulp mill in Nova Scotia would also derive be-

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neit. For their confusion I will state that I do not own an acre of land or any interest in any land in the United States, direct or indirect, and that the entire holdings of all my relatives combined in land in that country not stripped of pulpwood amounts to less than thirty-five thousand acres. Since the pulp mill in Maine, in which they are interested does not either own or control an acre of land other than through the above small holdings, it will readily be seen that they will be in exactly the same boat as all other pulp and paper manufacturers in the U.S. when the embargo is applied. With regard to my ownership in the 400,000 acres which I control in Nova Scotia, since this is all fee land from which the wood is now exportable to the United States, these opponents to the embargo will not have the temerity to say that there can be any selfish interest at stake in this connection.

Insofar as a wood supply for my Nova Scotia mill is concerned, as this mill only consumes a matter of some 14,000 cords annually, it would leave me a large surplus of wood for export if I so desired. This mill is at present buying all its supply from the farmers, thereby saving from export at least that quantity of wood, although I have urged the farmers time and again, not only in Nova Scotia, but in all Canada, to conserve their trees just as long as possible in order that they may reap the full benefit of the higher prices that are coming in the immediate future owing to the exhaustion of the wood supply. The fact must be borne in mind that there are some eight other pulp mills in Nova Scotia which are largely dependent on farmers' wood for their existence. It is perfectly safe to say at the rate land and wood are being bought up in Nova Scotia by American interests within three years time the wood-using industries of that Province which have not a sufficient supply on their own lands will be out of business.

Now as to the suggestion that since a "royal commission" has been appointed to investigate the pulpwood situation everybody should fold his hands and sit quietly by to await the outcome of the deliberations of that august body—deliberations which, the chairman himself has explained, will occupy months if not years to conclude.

"If" there was anything for a royal commission to discover that was not already only too well discovered; "if" a commission had been appointed competent to deal with the matter; and "if" the forest situation was not so alarming, it would be quite in order to await the findings by that body, as suggested, notwithstanding the truism of Disraeli particularly applicable in this case, that "royal commissions are appointed to discover things already known

to the people." Any reader of the newspapers of ordinary intelligence is fully apprised as to our forest losses from insect pests, fires, wind storms and our rapidly increasing exports, aside from the necessities of our rapidly increasing wood-using industries. Attempts have been made to minimize the loss by reference to the amount of wood subject to salvage, but it is a fact that only a very small portion of fire-killed timber can be salvaged, owing to the astounding swarms of borers that are now infesting our burned-over areas. I have just received a letter from a large timberland owner who had quite a large area destroyed by fire the present season, in which he says: "I have had the land carefully examined and find that the pine is already badly bored, and that it will only be throwing good money after bad to try to cut and save it." And what is true in his case is true in most.

We must not take the suggestion of the Premier of Quebec that the placing of an embargo is ultra vires of the Federal Government too seriously, as Mr. Taschereau in the past has been perhaps the strongest advocate in the whole Dominion of Canada for home manufacture for not only our pulp wood but all other raw materials, even going so far as to say that Quebec's raw materials should be manufactured in Quebec, because insofar as our pulpwood is concerned, with the enormous losses we have recently suffered through insects and fires, the necessity for conservation is far greater to-day than when this wise policy was first propounded by Mr. Taschereau. Consequently, as I said before, we must not take any recantation on the part of the Premier too seriously. An explanation, sooner or later, will doubtless be forthcoming.

I am glad to know that my suggestion as to an embargo, even at first blush, seems a reasonable means of conserving our pulpwood resources to a critical St. John news paper. This Journal states that only 12% of the pulpwood used in the making of paper in the United States is cut from Canadian land, but as a matter of fact out of a total consumption of pulpwood by United States mills of some 5,500,000 cords, Canada will probably export to that country the coming year nearer forty per cent, with a possibility of its reaching fifty per cent. Many American pa-

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