

will and regard for the general welfare of the public some means can be found of complying, without compulsion, with the necessary requirements of the law in this matter, as well as in the construction of the necessary fishways in all dams."

A Tribute to Sir Lomer Gouin.

After emphasizing the necessity of forest protection, Mr. Mercier reviewed

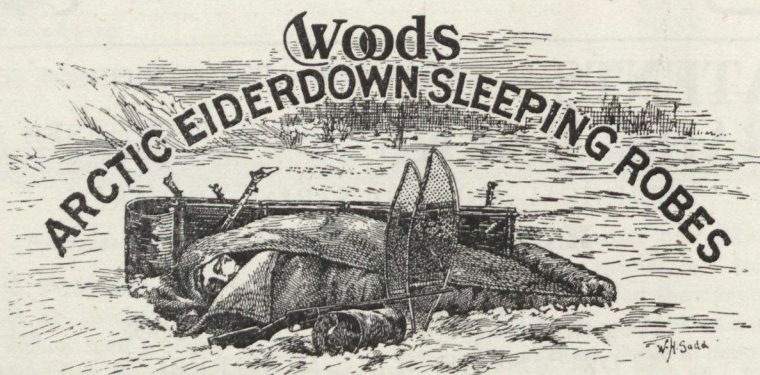
the expansion of the pulp and paper industry under the Gouin administration. "The foundation of the industry was laid by enacting careful regulations governing the control of waterpowers, the cutting of timber, the protection of forests from fire, reforestation, and to ensure the manufacture in Canada of timber cut in the province on Crown lands by making such manufacture a condition of the lease of

timber limits. The result is seen in the fact that we have today over 30 pulp and paper factories, representing an investment of 100 million dollars. And yet, this is but a commencement. Notwithstanding a recent temporary setback, Quebec confidently believes that it is destined to become the most important centre in the world for the manufacture of pulp and paper. It can hardly be otherwise. We have the raw material in abundance; we have expert manual labor in this kind of work; we have numerous and well-situated rivers for the floating of logs, and with considerable water-powers we have electric power in profusion. And as a guarantee for the capitalist who risks his fortune in such enterprises, we have the inestimable advantage of being free from socialistic agitations and of having a population which is a respecter of peace, of order, and of property."

Another note of warning could be discerned in this pronouncement: "It is contended in some quarters that our policy prohibiting the export from Canada of our raw material for pulp and paper is to some extent nullified by the fact that considerable quantities of it are shipped into other provinces and thence finds its way into the United States. The suggestion has been made to the Government that legislation may become necessary to prevent this roundabout way of evading existing laws and regulations. I am not ready to say what steps may be taken to meet this state of affairs, but something must surely be done."

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