

### Regarding Ontario's Pine.

What should then be done under the circumstances? I maintain that no wood should be cut at all unless it is mature, that is to say, can no longer earn by growth increment sufficient to permit it to remain standing, or is so situated that it is liable to be destroyed before it can be cut down.

The only way this can be done is by selection. This means, speaking broadly, the marking of such trees as may be properly cut, or that must be cut, and the protection of those that must not be cut, and at the same time it entails full inspection and measurement of such trees as are cut. It would no doubt surprise some of our citizens to see 60 per cent of the contents of pine trees felled for lumber, left to rot upon the ground because the quality is not sufficiently good to pay the Crown dues. It would also astonish them to learn that in the so-called pine reserves of the Province, taking the total contents of the stand of timber as a whole, there is no increase or growth increment whatever of the total quantity, and that this condition is not the case where stands of timber are properly operated. These details are only an insignificant part of a great number of conditions which exist to the detriment of the forest unknown to the owners which are in the last analysis the citizens of the Province.

### The System at Fault.

With the present system the officers of the Crown are engaged in seeing that contracts and regulations, made largely by their predecessors, are carried out in the best way possible under the circumstances, and they have not either the time, the authority, nor the means at their disposal to carry on or control the exploitation of the people's forests to their greatest benefit. Even if they knew what was the best method, no fault lies with them, it is in the system.

It is only by continued personal inspection and properly graded instructions and the decision of moot points by a competent staff that the lumbermen can get fair treatment and at the same time be obliged to conform to regulations based on a continuous timber supply. This means a staff of employees not at present contemplated. The required staff should consist under the Provincial Forester, of District Foresters, Assistant Foresters, Forest Examiners, Forest Assessors, and a host of Forest Assistants to be graded and controlled by their respective chiefs and to be subject to promotion as well as to discharge on the recommendation of their

superior officers after examination or appeal to a Board appointed by the whole body, and sitting with the Provincial Forester as its head.

### BIG ORDER OF CANADIAN LUMBER.

Ottawa, Jan. 7.—As the outcome of negotiations carried on by the Canadian Trades Commission for the past month the timber controller of Great Britain will purchase in Canada half a million standards of lumber, equivalent in the Dominion to one billion square feet. The lumber, which is to be of all grades, will be bought under the direction of the timber controller through British brokerage houses and Canadian timber agents in London who will deal direct with the Canadian lumber producers.

It is understood that every Canadian producer who is registered on the lists of the trade board at Ottawa will be given an equal opportunity to sell. There is also to be an allocation of purchases upon a territorial basis, thus ensuring a fair proportion of purchases to Western Canada.

This lumber is to be bought within the next twelve months. It will represent a total transaction in money value of about \$40,000,000.

The necessary Canadian credit which rendered the large lumber transaction possible was arranged some weeks ago between the Dominion government at Ottawa and the Imperial government. This credit is to be availed of to the extent that is rendered necessary by the state of international exchange. The British government is to supply the shipping to carry this lumber to Great Britain. The transaction indicated the character of business which it is expected the trade mission will be able to obtain from now on, particularly upon the continent.

### THE JOURNAL'S QUESTION BOX.

Readers of the Forestry Journal are invited to take advantage of the Forestry Association's facilities for securing authentic answers to questions relating to forestry, tree planting, reforestation, and kindred subjects. A great number of questions are answered by mail and such of these as may have general interest will be used henceforth in the Journal.

Send along your question. We will do our utmost to obtain a satisfactory reply.

You can talk on the long distance now between midnight and 4.30 a.m. for a quarter what it costs during the day; and, speaking of us Scotch again, we see where some folks are going to get very little sleep.

—American Lumberman.