

THE AMERICANS ARE NOT AT OUR MERCY.

Before I dispose of the American question, it may not be inopportune to dispel an illusion under which some people appear to be, or would have us believe that they are ; to the effect that the Americans are at the mercy of the Province of Quebec, or rather of Canada, for their supply of pulp wood. This is a great mistake, and I here offer the proof.

According to statistics taken from the last census of the United States, 1,986,310 cords of wood were consumed for the pulp and paper industries of that country in the year 1900. Of that amount 369,317 cords came from Canada. That is only 18.58 per cent. or less than one fifth.

Moreover, the United States has a forest reserve of 1,094,496 squares miles which is equal to 37 per cent of the country, not including Alaska.

The Canadian pulp wood exported to the United States is used up to supply a certain number of Mills which are not far removed from the frontier. Others take their supply in the United States. Are we to suppose that there is no more wood in those large States? Take Maine, a State which is very close to us, and let us see.

According to the report of the Forest Commissioner of that State, published on the 9th of January, 1903, there are actually in the forests of Maine 21,239,000,000 ft. of spruce not including a large quantity of cedar, poplar, &c. And according to the report of Mr. R. S. Hosmer (U. S. Bureau of Forestry) the annual growth in the forests of Maine is sufficient to allow without any danger of exhausting the forests the cutting of 637,000,000 ft. of spruce annually, while the mills actually in operation do not use up more than 295,000,000 ft. Seventy nine per cent of the State of Maine is in forest

I have spoken of the forests of Maine because they are close to us, but statistics to the same effect exist in respect to the State of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oregon &c.