

PULP MILLS IN ALBERTA?

Edmonton, Alta.—Whether or not a pulp industry can be established in this province, using spruce and poplar timber from the near-north country, will be the aim of a series of experimental tests to be made under the auspices of the Alberta Government's advisory scientific research council. Great stretches of small timber all over the north country and in the western foothills will be turned to profitable account if the experiments work out successfully.

The pulp-making value of poplar timber has never been tried out in a large way, but it is believed that either clear or mixed with spruce it will produce a good marketable article. Much of the wooded area of Northern Alberta is covered with small-growth poplar, which so far has been of no use other than as firewood for the settlers, and if the proposed tests are successful it is likely that pulp mills will be built at one or more points like Fort McMurray and Peace River.

The research council has set out to explore the industrial possibilities of the province in various new directions, one of the most important of which is the utilization of the Athabasca tar sands. To these investigations will now be added the pulp tests, which are to be commenced as soon as arrangements can be made.

A PENNSYLVANIA VIEW.

(From "Forest Leaves")

A liberal estimate puts the present value of the 13 million acres of largely devastated forest in this state at not over 200 million dollars. This land restored to producing forest will be worth not less than 1,300 million dollars. This forest property will be yielding a tax income of 13 million dollars annually before the end of the century unless this generation proves recreant to its responsibilities. You have already heard of the great additional contribution of this forest property to our health; to the alleviation of floods and water conditions; to our recreation; to the protection of our rich river bottom farms and the channels of navigation.

Our people do not sense the size of the thing! Here is an area equal to the entire improved farm area of the state in need of upbuilding. An area about three times the entire area of New Jersey. The larger capital returns will be far in the future. The contributory returns—health, water, wild life, recreation—will begin to pay dividends at once!

Civilization progresses only as capital is saved and applied to produce tenfold in the future. The vision of future crops prompts the planting and care of an orchard. The vision of coming centuries of saving in transportation costs led to the building of the Panama Canal. It is this

harnessing of the powers of nature that yields civilization its horn of plenty.

China starves because she does not look ahead—does not develop her coal beds, irrigate her vast plains, reforest her stripped and gullied mountains that pour destruction on her valleys below.

Fredericton, N.B.—A forest nursery to be operated co-operatively by the Forest Service Branch of the Department of

Lands and Mines and the Forest School of the University of N.B., may be located in the city limits of Fredericton on University property, if the negotiations between the Department and the University which are being considered, result satisfactory and successfully.

It is understood that the nursery would be planted with seeds and seedlings and the Forest School of the University and the Forest Service of the Province would co-operate in the upkeep.

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