

FORESTRY IN FRANCE.

One hundred years ago the Landes, some two million acres in extent, was a barren waste, grazed by a poor and unhealthy type of sheep, aptly described by a local writer as swampy, fever-ridden and desolate. This area, by intelligent co-operation between state, communes, and individual owners has been turned from the poorest district in France into two of the richest departments of that country. In that happy district practically no local rates are paid, firewood can be had almost for the asking. Individual peasants own up to 100 to 300 hectares (250 to 750 acres) of what was once barren soil, and no wis forest land worth £100 per acre, and bringing in a steady revenue from turpentine and from pit props for the British market. The wages in the district are high, and the shelter and humus given by the trees allow the once sandy waste to be used for vine culture and cereal crops.—Lord Lovat, at Empire Limber Conference.

FIGHTING BORERS WITH CEMENT GUN.

An effective method has at last been found for preserving piles from the attacks of the teredo, limnoria, and other wood borers found in salt water, as described by Robert Campbell in "Popular Mechanics." It consists in coating the pile with a three-to-one sand-and-cement mixture, which is driven against the wood with such force as to penetrate all crevices and render it completely impervious to water. No form of animal life can then enter.

Two lines of hose lead to the gun. A stream of water is forced through one of them and the dry sand and cement mixture through the other. The two meet at the nozzle, where the cement is driven through a fine spray or mist, gathering moisture for sticking at the point of contact.

Canada's Fur-bearing Animals—The Mink

By William MacMillan.

Wandering through the woods summer or winter one is sure to see either the little brown coated fellow himself or at least some marks of his passing, for the Mink is a busy individual and is continually on the move. A flash of brown along a fence-rail, a whisk of his tail and he is gone. Though much like the weasel in build he is a great deal larger and heavier, and no whit less courageous, for he will attack almost any creature, big or small, that menaces his safety. Lying on his back he does terrible damage with his fearfully sharp claws or leaps with

the speed of light at the throat of his adversary so that one is not surprised at the wholesome respect with which he is regarded by his enemies.

A good swimmer the Mink can plunge into the waters of lake or stream and give successful chase to the nimble muskrat or even the swift Trout and Salmon. Every bit as deadly in his assault on the people of the tree tops. He can climb with the speed and agility of the squirrel and prey upon the birds that make their homes in the trees of the great forests.

When pursued a mink has little diffi-



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