

"The great standby for coniferous timber will be Canada, if the Government does not lose time in introducing a rational management of her forests."

What is the actual forest situation in Canada to-day? Originally covered by an immense forest, stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific, unbroken save where the prairie fire and the buffalo had won for themselves a place on the plains of the West, the axe and fire and the advance of settlement have so changed the face of nature that the hardwood forests have practically disappeared, and with the exception of birch and, to a less extent, maple, Canada is dependent almost wholly on outside sources for her hardwood supply. Those who have had opportunity of observation state that not more than one-third of her coniferous forests are mature timber, the remainder being *brulé* or small trees. In many districts fire has done its work by itself or as an accessory to the axe, with such destructive effect that large tracts, once forest-clad, are now bared to the rock or sand foundation upon which so much of the coniferous forest stands, and left useless and unproductive, efforts to convert them to agricultural purposes having proved utterly futile.

Flowing from the great forest-clad hills and mountains of the Dominion are numerous perennial streams which in their descent form water-powers of immense possibilities and value, and furnish supplies of moisture to the plains beneath, plains which, in some cases, in order to their successful cultivation, require a substantial addition to the scanty rainfall which they receive. The possibilities of electrical development and other uses of the energy furnished by these streams open immeasurable limits to Canada's industrial future. And the even flow, and in some situations, the very existence of such watercourses depends on the preservation of the forests at their sources. In Southern France, at the beginning of the last century, the slopes of the Pyrenees, the Cevennes, the Alps, were deforested and left bare to the action of the elements. The results were the transformation of even-flowing streams into rushing torrents, the erosion of the slopes into gullies and ridges, destructive land-slides, and the deposit of silt on the plains beneath to such an extent that some 8,000,000 acres of once fertile soil in twenty departments were involved in the disastrous consequences of forest destruction on 1,000,000 acres of mountain slopes. France has already spent \$20,000,000 to help repair this condition and replace the forests, and it is estimated that more than \$30,000,000 will have to be expended before the area which the State possesses, only some 800,000 acres, will be restored. Canada has no special dispensation from Providence, and a similar transgression of the laws of nature will inevitably bring the same results. Is there not, therefore, reason that this question should