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Has the Hour Arrived for Constructive Forestry

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Quebec Government is now prepared to assist operators aiming at a sustained yield.



Canada has, in the past 10 years made great progress in the conservation of its timber resources and should be proud of it. By conservation I mean rational utilization and elimination of waste. Forest fires are not as frequent or as disastrous as formerly, though much can still be done along these lines. A beginning has been made at mapping and classifying our forests. A strong public sentiment has been aroused and much educational work done. In actual practical utilization however, practically nothing has yet been done, logging methods have not changed since lumbering started and much valuable wood and many valuable by-products are still going to waste. Logging is an engineering problem and should be carried out by trained engineers. In order to insure a supply of timber it must be carried out according to certain well defined principles which come under the head of Forestry. Lumbering should be conducted by forest engineers. There has been prevalent for many years the idea that only men brought up in the woods, who were rough and handy with their fists and had gained their experience by handling an axe or a heavy, could handle logging operations. As well expect a civil engineer to have learned his profession with a

pick and shovel or an hydraulic engineer with a level and trowel. The trouble with the so-called practical man is that he has learned all he knows by experience and has generally no knowledge of underlying principles. When confronted with a situation which has never previously come under his experience he either applies his experience literally or is entirely at a loss. He works by rule of thumb or precedent. The trained man on the other hand, knows the fundamental principles and soon learns to apply them generally.

Now there is one basic principle underlying the use of our forest resources, that of a sustained yield. That is to say we have built up the lumber industry and the pulp and paper and wood using industries which are absolutely dependent on wood as raw material. It is inconceivable that after a period of years, only a moment in the life of a nation, we should scrap these industries. Take the Province of Quebec as an example. The great bulk of its area is good for nothing but to grow forests. Are we going to deliberately give up our lumber industry, our pulp and paper industry after fifty years? Where will our wood using industries get their supply of raw material? Where will our