

patronage of our neighbors, and so long as they offer us their money we will probably accept it. To do otherwise would be foolish. But having accepted it, to continue it in circulation in this country is not desirable. We have our own coinage and scrip, and foreign coin should be converted into this at once. To facilitate doing this, and as a means of getting rid of American silver, the Canadian Bankers' Association is making an arrangement with the Government to take it from the public, thus substituting our own money without the necessity of making the other illegal.

An Experiment in Taxes

REDUCING taxes on dwellings is the means by which Toronto hopes to remedy the present house famine. For the past three or four years the demand for houses has been increasing enormously, and though building operations have also greatly increased, they have not nearly kept up with the demand. Overcrowding has resulted, and quite too large a portion of Toronto's population is uncomfortably housed. The natural remedy for such a condition is to build more houses, but investors have not been anxious to put their capital into the class of moderate-priced houses most wanted. Among other reasons for this hesitancy has been taxation.

A by-law presented to the voters at the recent municipal election and carried by a large majority, provides for the exemption from taxation of all dwellings to the extent of \$700. As this includes the poorest as well as the costliest houses in the city, an aggregate valuation of over twenty-five millions is involved, and the exemption of that amount means a general increase of 4.06 mills on the dollar. Naturally the manufacturers and capitalists, upon whom would fall the burden of the increase, opposed the scheme, but it was favored as a benefit to the small owners and a remedy for the house famine; discouraging the holding of land vacant, "it will encourage the building of houses," said its advocates, "thus increasing house accommodation."

Professor Goldwin Smith was one of the prominent opponents of the exemption,

holding that it would be unjust to capital. The voters, however, looked at it from the standpoint of the smaller owner, as was to be expected, and endorsed it almost two to one. As there is much to be said on both sides of the question, its ultimate disposition may be a matter of considerable debate, but so far as it would help to solve Toronto's housing problem, it is worth a trial.

Lumber for the Future

ONE of the largest railway companies in the United States, fearing a lumber famine in the territory in which it operates, is planting forest trees along its lines as a future source of supply. Foresight of this kind, applied as conditions might require, would be timely in Canada also, for here, too, the lumber supply is yearly lessening. Reforestation will be one of the live questions a few years hence, and is already receiving some attention. Two things are absolutely essential to the preservation of a future supply: that the reckless wasting of timber by fires and over-cutting be stopped, and that systematic replanting of trees be adopted as generally as possible.

In Ontario the system of forest reserves is being tried as a means of saving our lumber resources. Over two and a half million acres have been set apart as follows. A reserve in the counties of Addington and Frontenac, comprising 80,000 acres; a reserve on the north shore of Lake Superior, forty miles east of Port Arthur, with an area of 45,000 acres; the Temagami reserve, comprising the region surrounding Lake Temagami, an area of about 1,400,000 acres, on which there is estimated to be three billion feet of white pine; and the Algonquin Park, of more than a million acres.

The World's Supply of Gold

THE gold crop of 1904 is estimated at \$340,000,000, the largest amount ever produced in one year, and some \$15,000,000 ahead of 1903. The chief factor in the world's gold supply is now South Africa. The mines of the Rand were