

but, if we had not merely in view the wooded condition of country, but the question of timber supply for use in the arts, we will have to segregate those areas which by the nature of climate or soil are incapable of producing raw materials for industrial purposes. We will then find that the bulk of this vast area is woodland containing an open stand of poorly developed, branchy trees, only here and there with groves of better developed timber, but not in any sense logging propositions except for strictly local use, and that two hundred and thirty million acres are an ample allowance for the commercial forest area.

If we attempt to delimit this area of, under our present standards, commercially valuable forest, we will find that there are two distinct and widely separate areas, namely, the forest of British Columbia and that of the Eastern Provinces south of the Height of Land. Douglas Fir and the Giant Cedar are the prominent timber species in British Columbia. The botanical limits of distribution of these species are tolerably well known, and if we include the area within which they occur as timber area we find 178,000 square miles, 8,000 of which are located above the 5,000 foot level and hence outside the timber area. Allowing only thirty per cent. of waste in this area, we can assume that eighty million acres represents the commercial forest of that Province. For the Eastern forest area we may set the northern limit as the Height of Land, beyond which the character of the forest growth changes decidedly. Or we might take the line of botanical limit of White Pine, or else Norway Pine, which in part somewhat exceed, in other parts recede, from the Height of Land. This would include between two hundred and two hundred and forty million acres. Reducing this by the settled farm area of thirty million acres and allowing the usual thirty per cent. for waste, there remain, in round numbers, one hundred and fifty million acres, which once held the magnificent pine that has been mostly cut and exported, and holds the remnant of the virgin supplies. How much, who can tell? I believe, if we allow for the whole acreage of the East an average of two thousand feet per acre we shall have a maximum figure, namely, three hundred billion feet—not enough to supply the requirements of the United States for eight years.

The balance of the wooded area beyond the Height of Land, let us repeat, still contains valuable wood material, but it is not to be considered in a discussion of the supply of timber for the world market.

Are these data convincing, that for Canada as well as the rest of the world the time has arrived to consider seriously the propriety of better management of their timber resources?