

which will provide a supply adequate only for a very few years. The greatest asset the paper companies have today who own timberlands, is their raw material supply. But the American mills should be stopped from drawing the life blood of our Canadian wood using industries. They can find no fault with such action as self preservation is the first law of nature and I am very sure if the case were reversed the American mill owners would have taken this action long before this. However friendly neighbors may be, it is hardly reasonable to expect the mill owner in one country to allow the raw material to be removed, almost from his mill yard, to supply the mills of another country with the possible closing down of his own industry.

Some may question the power of the provincial government to act, but the highest legal tribunal of the State of Maine ruled that it was constitutional for a state to regulate even the size of the trees a man may cut on his own private land. Anyone who bought land in this country bought it subject to the laws then existing, as well as to any regulations that might be imposed in the future.

#### **Annual Increment Leaves a Net Loss.**

The wood resources of Canada have been so grossly exaggerated that very few are aware how meagre our supply of available wood really is. I have spent a large portion of the past few years in a personal investigation of the Canadian situation, the results of which are so alarming that I have refrained from publishing my findings.

The theory of an annual growth that has been indulged in so freely in the past has simply become a popular delusion. There is, of course, a gross growth, and a net growth under some conditions, but to offset this the annual wastage by fire, wind, insects and fungi, taking the country as a whole, far over-runs the gross growth. Consequently we are simply consuming our capital year after year.

If anyone has any question as to the enormous amount of this wastage, let him explore the woods of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick, where one can travel day after day and see nearly everywhere the vast destruction caused by the spruce bud worm alone. There are millions of acres in these provinces where over fifty per cent of the standing pulpwood has been completely destroyed.