

which yet greater expansion of the industry may be looked for, the thinking economist must surely ask how long the forests will resist the onslaught. And he may perhaps logically base an answer upon such a statement as contained at the beginning of this article: namely, that in Ontario and Quebec there are 500 million cords of standing pulpwood—an estimate that the writer has made

after covering most of the forest areas of the two provinces.

On such a basis these forests could be regarded as providing a perpetual supply of pulpwood at a rate sufficient to operate all existing paper mills in Canada and the United States. Even at that the annual increment would be less than one per cent—a growth much below what is possible by scientific forestry.

Forestry and Imperial Safety

By M. C. Ducey, F. S. I., London.

I have emphasized the connection between timber supplies and the safety of the Realm. I would remind you that with the comparatively small trade in the time of our ancestors, there was then a good reserve of timber in Great Britain. Nevertheless *they* fully appreciated the importance of ensuring Oak reserves for the British Navy and the safety of the Realm. With our enormously increased national turnover, is not the importance of creating reserves here now extended to *all* the varieties of timber so important to our collieries and other national industries? The safety of the Realm surely demands that forestry should be encouraged by every section of the community.

Let me remind you of the scheme for national afforestation outlined in the Forestry Report. The benefits to be derived from a comprehensive scheme are too many to enumerate and their value is beyond estimation. What assessment could we place upon the safety of the Realm; the revival of rural life; robust country industries; Imperial development? These things cannot be computed in money.

And what of the cost of a scheme? Let me give you a single fact. The outbreak of war found us deficient in reserves of timber. We had to buy supplies from abroad, pay whatever price was asked for them, and were very fortunate to get them at all. During only the first two years of

the war the enhanced cost of imported timber—over the pre-war price—was 37 millions pounds sterling. The figure represented by the increased cost of imported timber during this war will probably exceed the total cost of any scheme of afforestation.

We hear of enormous sums freely advocated for the nationalization of public houses and other purposes. Many of these problems can be solved by measures of reform on broad lines or by reasonable restrictions imposed in the national interest. I hope that the limited funds available after the war will be utilized mainly for financing remunerative schemes relating to the development of our own country and the Empire.

PUBLIC FORESTS IN CANADA

"The Globe," Toronto

"A forest is not a thing that the average Canadian capitalist cares to tackle on any other basis than a complete sweep of the standing timber. To provide the sort of forest that will yield an annual crop in perpetuity plans must be laid for periods far longer than the life of a single generation. That is why if we are to have forests in Canada of the sort that are to be found all over Europe they must be civic, provincial and national—controlled for the public benefit by public authorities."