

# The Forward Movement in Forestry\*

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(Continued from the March Issue)

## A Careful Review of Measures Adopted Throughout the Dominion for Perpetuating the Forest Resources



The necessity for forest research as a basis for silvicultural practice is recognized by the British Columbia Forest Branch, which has provided definitely for this class of work in the administrative reorganization recently made effective.

Some of the pulp and paper companies are making a beginning at forest research work, independently as well as in co-operation with governmental agencies. For example, the Belgo-Canadian Pulp and Paper Company, through its forestry department, has made some experimental thinnings, with the particular object of increasing the rate of growth of spruce and balsam. Experiments along similar lines have been made by the River Ouelle Pulp and Lumber Company, in co-operation with the Quebec Forest Service, including also some experimental cuttings under the strip system.

It is greatly to be hoped that a large extension of forest research by the various administrative organizations, Dominion and Provincial, may be made possible by the appropriation of adequate funds. The field is so large that there need be no fear of wasteful duplication for at least many years to come.

### DISPOSAL OF LOGGING SLASH.

For many years, it has been recognized that slash resulting from logging operations constitutes a most serious fire hazard. The great majority of destructive forest fires gain headway because of this accumulation of inflammable debris on cut over lands. It has been fully recognized that if this accumulation could be disposed of safely, at a reasonable cost, the problem of forest fires would be well on its way to solution, to say nothing of greatly lessening the damage to standing timber by forest insects and parasitic fungi.

The Dominion Forestry Branch is the pioneer in systematic slash disposal in Canada. On all timber sales in the Dominion forest reserves, this is required as

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one of the terms of the contract. While others have been discussing the matter the Forestry Branch has gone ahead and secured results. Slash disposal is now generally in effect in timber sales on unlicensed lands in the Dominion forest reserves. Operators find that, once their men become familiar with the work and recognize that it must be done, the cost is by no means prohibitive and competition with timber cut under other conditions is quite possible. Of course, the stumpage revenues to the Government are somewhat smaller by virtue of this requirement, but forest officers regard this as a good investment. On Dominion Crown lands under license, however, the requirement is not effective, these lands not being under the jurisdiction of the Forestry Branch. In consequence, the fire hazard to forest reserve lands is greatly increased.

In British Columbia very considerable progress has been made toward slash disposal in the Coast region, and a beginning has been made in the Interior. This is largely the result of co-operation between the B. C. Forest Branch and the operators, though there is now legislation under which slash disposal may be made compulsory, the cost for the most part to be divided between the operator and the forest protection fund. On the Coast, broadcast burning is the rule, this involving comparatively little additional expense.

In the eastern provinces, however, broadcast burning is not feasible to any great extent, partly because of damage to the remaining undersized timber, and partly because in many cases the soil itself is highly inflammable. As a rule, under such conditions, slash must be piled for burning, and this necessarily involves material expense, in addition to the cost of burning, which has to be done under careful supervision.

During the past autumn and early winter, several experiments in slash disposal have been under way in Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.