

## The Mill and the Farmer in Northern Ontario

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Ontario's Claybelt area between the Quebec border and Hearst, along the National Transcontinental Railway offers one of the best possible illustrations of a working partnership between the forest and the farm. The lands are heavily covered with spruce and balsam and poplar, spruce running as high as 80 to 90 per cent. of the stand. The newly-arrived farmer must clear his lands of the tree growth as a preliminary to field crops. In his first two years he cannot hope to open up enough soil to give him a profit, but with the aid of the pulpwood selling at the track for \$7 and \$7.50 a cord (un-rossed), he can manage to make satisfactory wages while clearing his property. It is, therefore, contrary to the settlers' financial interests that the forest materials should be wasted in the clearing process through wholesale conflagrations. A much more potent argument against destructive fires is the necessity of having in the Claybelt country industrial towns to furnish a market for farm products (including pulpwood) and to provide periodical employment. Such

a combination is seen at Iroquois Falls, where the Abitibi Power and Paper Company has a pay list of \$110,000 a month and will buy every pound of farm produce raised in the surrounding country for many years to come. Results of the same nature will follow the new pulp mill at Kapuskasing, to be erected by the Spruce Falls Pulp and Paper Company, of which Mr. E. Stewart, Toronto, (former Director of Forestry) is Managing Director. This plant will create an industrial town on the C. G. R. at one edge of the soldiers' settlement. It will provide not only a centre of employment and immediate buyer for settlers' wood, but will make a produce market in which every soldier-settler can dispose of his goods at the best prices. The location of these mills in the spruce-covered Claybelt supplements in a most valuable manner the cause of settlement. There appears to be plenty of spruce to keep the mills supplied with raw material, if forest fires are suppressed with every means in the power of the Forest Service.

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## Forest Fires Taking Serious Toll

### Outbreaks in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick Result in Substantial Losses

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Forest fires have caused large losses during May and June. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have suffered forest damages that will probably prove the heaviest for many years past.

Nova Scotia, which has enjoyed recent immunity from serious fire trouble, has been obliged to witness the destruction of substantial tracts of badly-needed timber and the burning

of improved property which in the total will form a large sum. Complete reports of the Nova Scotia fires have not reached Halifax at the time this issue of the Forestry Journal goes to press. Newspaper reports, however, and some private information show that the series of fires during June placed a severe test upon the Nova Scotia system, and may cause some revision of