FOREST FIRE FIGHTING IN SWEDEN

By G. C. Piché, Chief of Quebec Forest Service

In Sweden every man knows how disastrous forest fires are to his country, and by reason of his great love for his homeland it is not necessary to compel any man by law to fight a fire. Whenever there is a report of a fire, forthwith every farmer in the neighbourhood leaves his work and offers his services to fight the plague, and if the local ranger finds that he is not able to put out the fire with the men at his disposal, he immediately sends a telegram to the Governor of the Province (Lan) asking him to send additional help, and as soon as possible thereafter a regiment of soldiers, or more, is sent by special train to extinguish the fire. I am of the opinion that the reason why the Swedes are so successful in their war on forest fires is that everyone has a veneration for the forest; they know their forest resources are of supreme importance and that almost half the exports from Sweden consist of forest products.



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DOUGLAS FIR IN CHINA

HE demand for lumber of all kinds is decidedly on the increase in China and modern building construction is showing a tremendous growth. Douglas fir is the premier wood imported because it is well adapted to general construction purposes and is superior to the hand sawn lumber made by the Chinese out of native pine. domestic sawmill production of lumber is small, and this also helps the ever-growing demand for American timber.

A prominent lumber importer estimated recently that Douglas fir was coming into Shanghai at the rate of 7,000,000 board feet per month. While it is impossible to check this figure, it is safe to say that the importation and consumption of lumber is now back on a normal basis. The demand for lumber of all kinds is increasing rapidly throughout China, due not only to decided activity in the building trades but also to the steady industrial development of the cities.

Doug'as fir is, of course, the premier wood used for construction purposes in China. It is superior to the native pines both in texture and tensile strength, but the great difference in price has sometimes made buyers turn to the cheap native pine for certain classes of work. A prominent importer of Douglas fir recently stated that a marked increase in the importations of competitive woods was noticeable in China and the Douglas fir dealers will have to contend with these in the future. The reason Chinese pine could not seriously compete before was due to the crude, handsaw methods used in its manufacture of planks. Recently, however, the Chinese have started modern saw mills and are making a very good grade of lumber.