

**Non-Agricultural  
Lands**

Optimistic as we have been in this country, we seem to have been unable to see any value worth caring for in our non-agricultural lands. Our vision was broad enough years ago, when we heard of agricultural lands in the Peace River valley, to recognize that such lands, while unused at the time, would within a decade or two grow crops and support a population. We can look across the future to the time when our far northern mineral deposits, though inaccessible and incapable of development at the present time, will develop centres of industry. But we travel daily across the non-agricultural, logged areas and burned-over lands which surround many of our most densely settled communities and lie across our transcontinental railways and we see in such lands no asset. This attitude is both dangerous and unfair to the country. We must realize that our present stands of merchantable timber cannot support our growing industries indefinitely. The growing American demand for forest products, to which in a very few decades will be added a much greater market in Europe than now exists, will very rapidly wipe out our eastern merchantable forests. Even now, New Brunswick, speeded up by foreign markets, is cutting each year from Crown lands more than the annual forest growth.

**Problem Must  
Be Faced**

This is a problem which must be faced squarely by every province. The future forest industries, which are almost the only industries possible on three-fifths of the area of Eastern Canada, must be supported by the timber grown on the logged-over and burned-over non-agricultural lands. Looking at these lands we should see, not wastes, holding no promise for the future, but productive lands, needing only protection from fire to enable them to support logging camps, pulp mills, rural and industrial communities of a type which has done much for Canada. If the young forest growth on the non-agricultural lands of Eastern Canada had been protected from fire during the past twenty years, railways would not now be importing railway ties, and saw-mills in Western Ontario, each the centre of a thriving community, would now be supplying the markets with lumber, which, because of lack of forest protection in the past, is being supplied from British Columbia and the United States. Many instances may be quoted which show that care of the young forest on non-agricultural lands is not only a duty we owe to posterity, it is an insurance of timber industries which affects the prosperity of Canadians to-day. Even agriculture will benefit by such a policy, for scattered through our non-agricultural regions are very many small areas of agricultural and semi-agricultural land which can only be developed if some-