

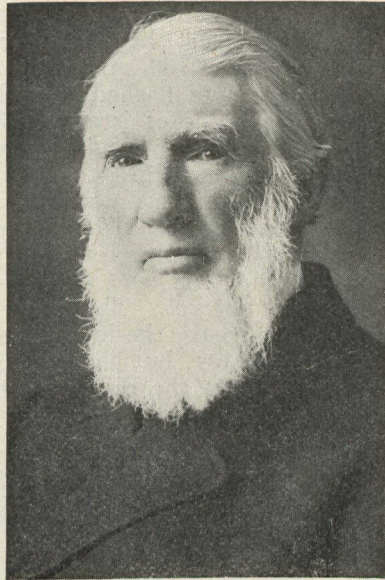
# John R. Booth, Timber Veteran, Speaks Out

Canada's Tragic Loss of Forests Viewed Through the Eyes of a Noted Captain of Industry, Now in 97th year.

ON April 5th, John Rudolphus Booth, the Grand Old Man of the Lumber Industry of Canada, stepped briskly into his 97th year.

Canada has marched a long and perplexing path since 1827, twelve years after the Battle of Waterloo, when J. R. Booth first saw the light of day. A densely packed Empire of timber has dwindled to about a third of its old time dimensions. Population has increased but our guardianship of the forest against the chief plague of Fire has by no means kept pace with the expanding hazards.

To seek the view of one who has filled a long scroll of experience, the Editor of the Canadian Forestry Magazine paid a call upon Mr. Booth a few days prior to his birthday. Conversation presently drifted to some recent newspaper references



JOHN R. BOOTH

to 'lumber barons,' and Mr. Booth spoke out pointedly.

"People seem to think that the successful business man they call a 'baron' has had his wealth wished on him. They think he came into easy money by a government favor. I never secured an acre of timber from any government except in open competition and as the highest bidder. I paid the maximum price asked for it and any other man could have had it if he were willing to pay more. Favoritism played no part whatever."

## A Word on Timber "Barons"

Mr. Booth was reminded that a fellow lumberman had reckoned from actual experience that 85 per cent of the so-called "barons" went into bankruptcy.

"I do not believe that even 15 per cent of operating lumbermen make

Mr. Booth believes that for every tree taken out by the woodman's axe, twenty have been destroyed by fire.

