

anything else in which he can possibly invest; and I cannot urge the farmer too strongly to let his trees grow, even to the point of borrowing money if necessary. In addition, he must remember that every cord of wood he ships out of the country shortens the life of one of our greatest industries, namely, pulp, paper, and lumber; and he is thereby destroying his home market for his produce by the premature closing down our home industries through the exhaustion of their wood supply. Finally, by reducing the cut one-half, which would produce a shortage rather than a surplus, as at present, the farmer's income would be just as large because the price of wood would automatically double and, instead of practically giving his stumpage away which he is doing at present, he would then be obtaining a fair stumpage return as well as an operating profit, and at the same time be conserving our timber supply. I am not cutting a tree on my own land and shall not do so while I remain in business, just so long as I can buy a cord of wood at any price.

In any event, the Government of a country must, of course, always consider the greatest good to the greatest number; and when one figures the number of employees and dependents upon our great pulp and paper industry, as compared with the comparatively few who may be shippers of wood to a foreign country, who might be temporarily inconvenienced to their ultimate benefit, there can be no possible question as to what the Government's action should be.

Canadian Wood for Canadian Mills.

I am positive, now that the whole truth is apparent, that the urgency of the situation and the force of public opinion will compel the Government to take action to conserve Canadian wood for Canadian mills, and that in the future no Government can stand that does not provide adequate protection for Canadian wood-using industries. These industries are in a class by themselves, as every industry and every individual in Canada is dependent upon the preservation of our wood supply.

The subject of an embargo or export duty on pulp wood is not a question of what Canada might like to do. It is an absolute necessity for the protection of her own mills. It is a situation where she must retain what small wood supply she has left or close down prematurely one of her own most important industries in order to ship wood out of the country to supply the mills of the United States. Therefore, any suggestion of retaliation by the United States is unthinkable and could not be seriously considered. It must not be forgotten that small as the supply of standing timber in the United States is now

is, it is still four times as large as the Canadian stand.

The wood supply is unlike any other commodity, as it takes from 50 to 150 years to raise a new crop of trees.

FRANK J. D. BARNJUM.

Annapolis Royal, N.S.,

January 14th, 1922.

FACTS OF BUFFALO HISTORY.

The Forestry Magazine:—

Some few months ago I read an article in the Forestry Magazine of interest to me relating to rapid destruction of the great buffalo herds of the plains, as I saw something of this rapid depletion and its cause, it may be of interest to your readers to know how it occurred. In 1868-69 I was engaged on construction of the Union Pacific Railway when the great herd was divided in two parts by the construction of that railway, the southern portion roaming south into Kansas and the northern as far north as the Saskatchewan, about this time repeating rifles were making their appearance in the western territories and the American Indians were obtaining some, and of course these rifles facilitated the slaughter of buffalo greatly. About this time also General Crooks, who then commanded the Western Department of the American Army, reported to his government that so long as the buffalo remained on the plains it would be impossible to keep the Indians on their reserves, hence the destruction of the buffalo was rather if anything encouraged.

In 1870, while engaged in exploring passes through the Rocky and Bitter Root Mountains in Montana and Idaho for the Northern Pacific Railway, I met several large bands of Nez Perces passing back and forth from their reservations on the Snake and Clearwater branches of the Columbia River to the Missouri River for their annual supply of buffalo meat and robes, and those Indians reported buffalo as being very numerous. The Nez Perces were a very fine looking tribe of Indians and were very well off, owning a great number of horses, and their reservations on the plains of the Columbia were particularly well adapted for both grazing and cultivation purposes. The tribe divided in spring, one-half going off bag and baggage as I have said, to the Missouri for buffalo and the other half remaining on their reservations to cultivate their gardens and to catch and cure a supply of salmon as well as to lay

in a supply of lamas, a root that grows in that section of the country and very much used by the Indians for food. In 1871-72, while in charge of the first exploration for the Canadian Pacific Railway from Fort Garry (now Winnipeg) to the summit of the Rocky Mountains, in the Howse and Yellowhead passes, I met buffalo herds just west of where I crossed the South Saskatchewan River, about where Saskatoon is now located, and for several hundred miles buffalo herds were always in sight and we derived a great deal of sport in running them, but we only killed what were necessary to supply the party with fresh meat; just after crossing Battle River I met Poundmaker, the Cree Chief, who afterwards during Riel's 1885 Rebellion, became a prominent figure. He asked me to camp near him as his young men were out driving the buffalo towards one of his pounds and he was afraid if we went on my party might meet and turn the buffalo away. We remained camped for two or three days and held several pow-wows with him and parted very good friends. We did not lose sight of buffalo until we reached a point south of Edmonton where I turned north to reach that Fort. At this time most of the Canadian Indians were still using the Hudson Bay Company's single flint lock trading gun which was about as dangerous to the hunter as to the hunted, some of the more southern tribes such as the Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegiens were beginning to get repeating rifles, and consequently making a greater slaughter among the buffalo. In 1882, while engaged in an exploration of the South Saskatchewan and Red Deer Rivers for the C.P.R. I came across a band of 14 buffalo near the junction of these two rivers, and of this band we killed one, and as far as I have been able to learn, these were the last buffalo on our northern plains, as that in 10 or 12 years the great herds covering the country for hundreds of miles from East to West and from 1,500 to 2,000 miles from North to South due principally to the improved firearms, had disappeared, but of course settlement was beginning and the settler and the buffalo could not have lived at peace together.—

FRANK MOBERLY.

WOOD IN DEMAND.

Although many substitutes for wood have been devised, the great demand for timber continues to grow, and more wood is used in building construction to-day than before the discovery of concrete, and in the construction of railway cars than before the steel car was developed.—Col. W. B. Greeley, United States Chief Forester.