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## PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

## A NATIONAL PERIL.

The subject of our forests and the dangers arising from their ruthless destruction is one which cannot be too frequently, or too strongly, brought before the thinking public and all who have at heart the welfare of the Dominion. A timely warning in this connection is sounded in a pamphlet recently published by Biggar-Wilson Ltd., of Toronto. The author, who remains anonymous, pleads eloquently the cause of our timber assets. Canada, he says, now stands in two dangers—one, the desolation by the hands of its own people of the forests which regulate and maintain the water powers of our rivers and influence the rainfall upon which successful agriculture must depend in the future; the other, the depletion of those areas timbered with spruce, balsam, poplar, and other woods now being taken out of the country to supply American pulp and paper mills, whose home supplies are being exhausted. In parts of Canada and the United States to-day the effects of forest destruction are plainly seen, particularly in the Alleghany Mountains districts, which have in consequence been reduced to comparative sterility, and in the valleys of several large rivers of Ontario and Quebec. In about forty States of the Union, legislation has been passed or is being passed to preserve existing forests and restore those already wasted. The pulp-wood manufacturers are for this and other reasons compelled to draw to an ever increasing extent upon the forests of Canada. During the year ending June, 1907, pulp-wood to the amount of \$650,366 cords and 140,827 tons of ground pulp, valued at \$3,230,272, were sent from Canada into America. Some even more striking figures might be added to show to what degree that country is dependent upon the produce of Canadian forests. Twenty-one years ago the amount purchased from us by the States was valued at \$8,545,406; eleven years later—in 1897—it had risen 80 per cent. In 1898 and 1899 there was a sudden drop, but since then the increase has been constant. Last year the shipments totalled \$23,685,040—close upon 60 per cent. of our entire timber exports. Moreover, counting the negotiations at present under way, American companies have purchased from 12,000 to 15,000 square miles of Canadian spruce limits. Quebec, says the author, has forests and water-powers which

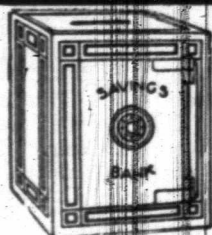
should make it the greatest pulp and paper manufacturing country in the world. And "to realize this great distinction, it is only necessary that the people of the Province should first understand the facts and then have the patience and determination to move towards their destiny." The steps he proposes are: first, the prohibition of the export of pulp-wood and other woods in an unmanufactured state; second, the creation of forest reserves on lands which form the chief watersheds of the rivers; and third, the gradual re-establishment of forests on those lands which investigation would show are better suited for timber growing than for agriculture. He shows that the benefits created by a pulp and paper industry within our own borders would be from ten to a hundred times greater than those arising from the sale of pulp-wood for export. But in any case, as he asks, what Canadian worthy of the name would bequeath a wilderness to his children in order that he might live out his own little life with a few extra dollars?

## SURETY SAYINGS.

There is something unusually attractive in the year book of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company, of Baltimore. On each page are words always of wisdom and frequently wit—sometimes from the pens of old philosophers and sometimes from more recent writings. For instance, on one page we have Diogenes: "Men contend with one another in punching and kicking, but no one shows any emulation in the pursuit of virtue." On the next page is the unknown philosopher's explanation. "The reason's plain and it is to their undoing; virtue is passive and does not need pursuing." Unlike some year books, this one has plenty of room for memoranda.

## CANADIAN ALMANAC.

With the coming of the New Year one looks for the publication of the Canadian Almanac, published by the Copp, Clark Company, of Toronto, at fifty cents. Edited by Arnold W. Thomas, it has been published continuously since 1848. The subjects of which the volume treats are legion. The surprising fact is that in such a handy book so little information is omitted. The Canadian Almanac is a necessity to the business man.

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