

IS ONTARIO PREPARED TO ACT?

The Canadian Forestry Association has laid before Hon. E. C. Drury, Prime Minister of Ontario, a plan for the reorganization of the provincial scheme of forest management. It involves two major changes:

The transfer of the entire woods administration to the control of the Provincial Forester and a staff of experienced technical men. This would concentrate the management of the forest resources in the hands of a single branch, technically qualified for such important duties;

It would provide for carrying on a public duty for which no provision to-day exists, viz: the supervising of timber cutting and the ensuring of permanently productive forests.

Secondly, the appointment of a Forest Advisory Board, similar to the New Brunswick Board, consisting of three Government members and two representatives of the wood-using industries, to have full authority over the selection and appointment of all fire-rangers, timber-scalers, and other employees, thus ridding the staff of patronage interference and securing discipline and efficiency.

There is not at the present time one technical forester in any administrative relation to the 15,000,000 acres of licensed timber berths of Ontario.

The suggested reforms in Ontario forest administration are not designed to upset ordinary commercial methods of logging, any more than they do in Quebec, New Brunswick and British Columbia, where all timber operations are under control of the Provincial Forest Services.

The lumber and paper industries in Ontario are of vast economic magnitude and the utilization of spruce and balsam supplies for pulp and paper is only on the edge of a wonderful development. It behooves the Province, therefore, to insure the permanence of the raw materials of the living forest by better fire protection and better methods of logging. Permanence in the forest itself is the aim of good Forestry. The migratory forest, the transient sawmill, the effervescent lumber town are incidents of a primitive civilization and the absence of modern scientific method in handling timber areas.

Ontario is master of its conservation policies. The main areas of the more valuable timber lands are owned by the Provincial Government.

the provincial borders, owing largely to the great demand created by forest depletion in the eastern United States. The latter, once richly forested, are now so reduced by forest fires and industrial exploitation that there is not a ten years' supply of spruce for the existing mills and no possibility of new pulp enterprises getting under way. It is estimated that the United States clears off 20,000 acres of timber a day to meet its requirements and much of this is not being left in a condition to pro-

duce another crop in any reasonable length of time. Ontario stands to gain by this exhaustion of basic supplies south of the border, but the gain can be but temporary unless the management of Ontario's forests is guided by a constructive modern policy, looking toward the systematic growing of successive timber crops on non-agricultural lands.

THE MARKET SHOWS IT.

Again, the presence of 20 to 25 billion feet of white pine may appear a large supply. Yet