

One achievement of the Forestry Boards in 1918 was to drain bogs and swamps by constructing over 400 miles of ditches.

Sweden's definition of proper forest management may be summed up as follows:

Any lumberman or other forest owner may cut by whatever method he pleases. He may cut the land clean or leave seed trees. But—and here we encounter the secret of Sweden's remarkable success in growing new forests—the cut-over areas must show after a reasonable time such abundant reproduction of young trees as will satisfy the rigorous examination of a Board of Foresters. In other words, Sweden says to the operator: "We are concerned in keeping the lands permanently under forest. We judge you by the state of your lands following cutting. If you cut clean you must replant at once. If you follow the selection method, leaving mother trees for seeding purposes, you must satisfy our examining officers that your lands are actually restocking in a way to develop a heavy forest growth in the future."

Practically the whole of Sweden's private forests are "managed" by Boards of Conservation Commissioners, acting through trained foresters. The public responsibility for maintenance of the country's forest wealth has long been accepted and whether the operator owns his lands outright or, as is mostly the case in Canada, lease them from the state, the insistence upon scientific cutting and restocking is resolutely carried out by the public administration.

Sweden and Norway and Finland of all European countries, should be studied by Canadians interested in forest methods. Conditions are more closely analogous to those of Canada than is the case with France, Germany or Switzerland. French forest methods are discounted in Canadian eyes by the great disparity between important economic conditions in the two countries. Sweden, however, is not materially unlike Canada in the various considerations that would make comparison of forest methods suggestive and helpful.

Following are the most important clauses of the Swedist forest law and a few words about its execution:

On private woodlands cutting and the management of the land after cutting shall be carried on in a manner that will not obviously jeopardize reforestation.

If neglect is proved, owner is held responsible and is compelled to take such measures as are necessary to secure the establishment of a new stand.

A Board of Conservation Commissioners shall be elected for each county revenue district and together with the foresters appointed by them and the forestry committees for the parishes they shall exercise control.