

he chooses provided that it gives promise of yielding a fair living for himself and family. Such land cannot be sold or alienated in the way that old-time soldier grants could be. It cannot, at any rate for years to come, be staked on the green cloth or drowned in the saloon, and many a prosperous home is now in growth in the fifteen-mile-from-railway limits of districts in Northern Alberta, the Peace River District, the valleys of the Bulkley and Nechako in British Columbia, the clay belt of Northern Ontario, and elsewhere.

With a male population of less than one for each section in nine provinces lack of employment can only be a disease of the towns, recurrent when manufacturing industries outstrip the demand for their products. Too much work can never be done on the land or in forest and mine till everybody is well fed, clothed and housed and has well lined pockets.

With the proviso that no natural resource is of any continued use without applied labour, and feeling that brains and capital are the more useful as cultivation becomes less simple, we may itemize the material on which the work must be done.

When the first French settlers came to Canada the land was covered by a practically unbroken forest from Cape Breton island to a point between Lake of the Woods and Winnipeg and again from a hundred miles west of Calgary to the extreme western limits of Queen Charlotte and Vancouver islands. In fact, apart from this prairie belt varying in breadth from 200 to 400 miles, a forest covered all Canada diminishing in density to the northern limit of tree growth. East of the present Manitoba the interesting and perhaps the only exception was the salt marsh land of the Bay of Fundy, which would recall to the immigrant from the region of the lower Loire the lands he had left. Even now the cleared area of this vast

forest looks small upon the map, the only large strip marked as such being that which comprises the St. Lawrence valley west of Quebec, the Eastern townships, the Ottawa Valley and the peninsula of Ontario.

Commercial timber in spite of the inroads of axe and fire, still covers 200 million acres, and the balance of growth is suitable for pulpwood. British Columbia, the native land of Douglas fir, Western cedar and Sitka spruce by recent and wise legislation and co-operation with the Dominion Government, which controls a diagonal railway belt forty miles in width, is ensuring that the natural growth shall keep pace with the annual cut and be a permanent source of revenue to the province. The example of the thoroughly scientific forestry system of France is in several provinces leading to tree planting and reforestation. The demonstration plantations in forty counties of Ontario, the Quebec government forest nursery at Berthierville, and other nurseries kept up by the great pulp and paper companies are encouraging signs that the science of forestry has taken root. But whether such steps are on a scale large enough to meet a daily cut of 6,000 acres for pulpwood alone, is another question. Every schoolboy knows that it is the destruction of forests just as much as the rule of the Turk that has made of Asia Minor a desert from a park, and all should know that if the United States as now cuts forty million board measure feet and wastes seventy million in so doing, a drain on Canadian timber is in sight, and that fifteen years of such a drain would denude our forests as they now stand.

The Dominion spends  $1\frac{3}{4}$  cents an acre on her forests as compared with the three cents an acre of the United States, the  $14\frac{1}{2}$  cents of Sweden, and the \$1.04 of France. Canada's permanent forestry staff in 1919 was 271.