

# PREAMBLE

The forests of North America reach from Florida to the Arctic. They are among the most productive in the world.

They are not, however, what they were.

Once, when they supplied most of the world's low-cost timber, it was assumed that they were inexhaustible. A plane passenger looking down on today's endless trees might still assume that nature needs no help, but he would be wrong.

The tall white pines that once stretched across the northeastern part of the continent have been replaced by scrub pine, and many northern Canadian forests are too far from markets to be harvested.

The forest industries of Canada and the United States now have world rivals with whom they compete for both the markets abroad and those close to home. In North America they compete with each other but they cooperate as well.

They share advanced technology and they work closely together to control fire and insects, the forests' prime evils. Both are engaged in extensive research to improve growth and they are planting the trees that will supply future home buyers who are now in their cradles.

The old assumption—that the forests of North America are inexhaustible—is still basically true; they will, if properly cared for, last forever.



*Mechanical feller-bunchers have made it economical to harvest small trees in interior British Columbia and eastern Canada.*