

timber on cut-over land, and within seven years these States will cease to be a factor to reckon with in the export business, for they will require their timber for their own domestic use.

Can't Check Demand.

"We are only in our infancy as producers of lumber, but within five years the lumber business of British Columbia will have grown enormously. We should be cutting at least five billion of feet by 1926. The demand is coming, and nothing can stop it. It has now come down to a matter of mathematical calculation.

"Mr. A. L. Clark, president of the Vancouver Lumber Co., some time ago had courage enough to state that we had not nearly the amount of timber in British Columbia that we were credited with. He estimated our resources at approximately 150 billion feet. Dr. Judson Clark, a well known authority on timber in British Columbia, estimates the total stand of accessible merchantable timber to be approximately 100 billion feet. Personally, from seventeen years' observation and examination of the timber in British Columbia by our firm, I incline to the figures as given by Dr. Clark.

"Of the forty thousand square miles of commercial forest in British Columbia, only fifty per cent. can be seriously considered as containing accessible loggable timber, the balance being on rocky, steep ground, where the cost of logging and the breakage would be so great that it would not tempt a logger to operate for many years to come.

"The virgin growth of timber in British Columbia is steadily decaying and should be cut and marketed, but the young second growth, on which we depend for our future supply of lumber, should be jealously preserved. At present we are recklessly cutting it for tie timber, poles and mining timber, destroying fully thirty per cent. of it during the operation. It is common practice to leave twenty to forty feet of good, sound butt logs in the woods, because it is too large to hew into ties. The same condition applies to operations where mining timber is being logged. This should be checked and without waste of time. Depletion of our forests in British Columbia within twenty years, with a resultant slump in all enterprise that depends wholly or in part on forest products, can only be averted if action is taken without further delay.

"The action we would propose is that private timber land owners adopt logging methods that will protect and preserve young growth, and leave logged-off lands in condition for forest renewal; then the young trees of today will be of merchantable size when needed. This is dependent on keeping fires out of the forests, so that young trees will have an opportunity to grow.

Job for the Government.

"It has been shown on examination that unless logging slash is burnt over the reproduction is very poor, the heavy slash shading the young seedlings. It is necessary for a fire to follow logging operations in order to prepare the ground for seeding. This should be undertaken by the Government, which can take every precaution to avoid disastrous fires.

"It takes approximately 80 years to produce trees of commercial size that will make ties and piling for the Coast or saw logs for interior mills. Eventually our Coast mills will have to adapt their cutting machinery for small logs, for the virgin timber, once gone, can never be replaced. It takes from 200 to 400 years to produce our large fir timber, and double that to produce our big cedar. The fortunate owner of a tract of virgin cedar and fir will, if only he can afford to hold it for a few years, reap a rich reward.

"The reforestation will have to be undertaken, in the main, by the Government. It is not practicable to enforce the practice of forestry on private timber lands, for the growing of timber of saw log size is an operation too long in time and offering too low a rate of return to attract private capital, always excepting pulp and paper companies, who can use timber long before it becomes saw log size.

"The price of logs governs the price of lumber, and with the consumer demanding cheap lumber the millman naturally is demanding cheap logs. The logger, in order to get his logs as cheaply as possible, is devastating our forests, cutting only the timber that can be cheaply handled, smashing down all the smaller timber in the process of logging, and leaving in the woods, to rot or to be burnt, some thirty to forty