

TESTING CANADIAN WOODS.

The announcement has recently been made that the Board of Works for the United Kingdom has added certain Canadian timbers to the list of those used by the department. That the qualities of Canadian woods might be understood and the timbers thereby put to the best possible use was the object of the Minister of the Interior, Canada, in establishing the Forest Products Laboratories in connection with the Forestry Branch. The laboratories are making mechanical and physical

tests of Canadian woods and the results are published from time to time as the investigation of each species or group is completed. The information obtained is proving of great value not only to timber users in Great Britain and other countries, but also to Canadian engineers, architects and builders. Beginning with the more important species the investigation is to proceed until all woods having any commercial value are tested. Bulletins 59 and 60, the two so far issued on this subject, may be had free upon application to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

A CANADIAN OBSERVER IN FINLAND.

By Edward Beck.

HELSINGFORS, Finland.—Finland, perhaps more than Sweden, is dependent upon her forest resources. As in Sweden, the people appreciate the importance of maintaining and increasing these resources, although this realization, as interpreted into practical usage and protective legislation, dates back less than a quarter of a century. Before that time Finnish forests were largely allowed to take care of themselves.

During the last twenty-five years laws, based upon those of Sweden, have been enacted and are now rigidly enforced. State and private owners of forests co-operate together in building up and maintaining the forests and in employing means for their perpetuation.

The practice of reforestation on a broad scale is carried on almost universally, except in the more northerly parts of the country where there is still much wild land. Finnish forest methods, however, are generally based upon the theory that it is better to let nature do the work where possible and to use artificial means only where necessary, and most of the cutting is done with that end in view. Some fine examples of natural forests from 60 to 80 years old are to be seen.

Here, as in Sweden, the private owners put their forestry and logging operations under a single supervision and management. The chief forester directs how and what trees shall be cut, always with the object of impairing the growing forests as little as possible, and following the cutting operations when necessary with replanting. Most of the companies buy timber in addition to cutting their own. They maintain separate organizations to deal with bought timber but the same requirements as to replanting is made to apply.

The extent of the forest organizations built up and maintained by the companies may be illustrated by that of the Kymmene Aktiebolag, one of Finland's largest pulp and paper companies, which owns over 600,000 acres of forest lands scattered over a wide area. This company employs a chief forester, nine district chiefs, 100 foremen and the necessary laborers, all of whom devote their entire time to forest operations. The chief forester and the district chiefs are well paid and are each provided with a home which is also the forest headquarters for the district. All the chiefs are trained foresters, and have been through the technical schools established for that purpose. This company has also accomplished what few state or private owners have succeeded in having made a complete survey of their forests and learning to a certainty the amount of available timber, the annual growth and all other details. By means of this survey they have been enabled to

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