

## What Does a Forester Do?

BY H. R. MACMILLAN.

TO profit by the text of an article in the January Review, I might say there are at present over 900 persons in the employ of the Forest Service of the United States. Of these over 200 are trained foresters, and the remaining 700 will be replaced by technical men as soon as possible. That even this number is small when compared with what future expansion promises to the Republic to the south of us, is evident from a statement recently made by Mr. Penchot, the United States Forester, when he said that if they were available he could immediately find work in the Government service for 2,000 graduates, and these starting at a minimum salary of one thousand dollars per year.

Now, I believe that it is unnecessary to repeat here the many and time-honored arguments, showing why, on account of her illimitable timber area, and its flagrant abuse, Canada should practice forestry, but a more pertinent and less considered question is how is forestry practiced, or to put it more generally, what is forestry?

What we, as Canadians, and as young Canadians seeking a profession, wish to know is, first, what is forestry from a forester's standpoint, and what has it to offer us as a profession, above others, that we should choose it before the stable calling of agriculture, the adventurous one of engineering or the more problematical law and medicine?

The great question which really stirs the minds of most Canadians when they do think of forestry is, "What do foresters do?"

To answer this we must go to the United States for the most illustrative examples, since at present the Dominion Forestry Department does not portray exactly what will be expected of its members when, after a few years the organization shall be completed.

The first idea to be assimilated is that forestry resembles agriculture in the diversity of its branches. Just as there are many different phases of animal husbandry and agronomy, experiment station work and laboratory investigations in agriculture, so are there divisions of silviculture, forest mensuration, management, utilization and laboratory research in forestry, each differing radically from the other. To carry the comparison even farther, foresters are divided as are agriculturists, into research workers, teachers, and those who might be known as practitioners, whose work keeps them a great deal of the time in the field. As with the farmer it is in the field that the foresters' sphere of usefulness actually lies. While it is not possible with the one short article to define and describe the many different aspects of a forester's duty, I may by one or two examples illustrate his life and method of work.

It is upon the numerous forest reserves that most young foresters in the