

ment of our forest wealth. The inevitable result of the present system will be the denuding of our forest lands. As the denuding continues woods products costs will advance steadily. Finally, denudation will be carried to the point where the need of remedial measures will be realized everywhere. At that time reforestation will be the only hope for the future, and this is a slow and expensive process. The harvesting of trees is a practical alternative. In our present test we cut trees with a minimum diameter of ten to twelve inches."

Permanent Slump Unavoidable Unless Timber is Protected

The recent slump in the lumber market and the consequent failure of the lumber companies to clear their overstocked yards of manufactured lumber has resulted in a marked reduction in the amount of lumber manufactured at the mills during the past summer season. Many firms are holding

over their 1921 cut of logs in their booms until next season. The outlook for the winter is therefore not at all promising and very few of the lumbermen are cutting any quantity of logs this winter. In the back settlements everywhere there will be a quiet winter and many men and horses will be idle.

In the greater part of the province this condition is keenly felt by the people, whether farmers along the valleys of the rivers or the millmen living in the towns and villages, as these are dependent for nearly all of their wages upon the continuous production of wood products from the vast forests of the province.

In normal seasons local labor is about sufficient to supply the demand. During seasons such as was experienced in 1919-20 local labor is insufficient to meet the demands and labor is brought in from the neighboring provinces. This year only a small percentage of local labor will find jobs in the woods.

The above statements illustrate all too clearly the dependence of the people upon the lumber industry for a livelihood. Large lumber mills idle, summer ports conspicuous by the absence of lumber schooners, uninhabited hunter camps, and portage roads filled with windfalls and snow through the long winter months, means empty payrolls and hungry families.

But such a condition is only temporary. The lumber industry will soon be back to normal, as business in general improves, and the perpetuation of the industry will depend entirely on the raw material available. With present methods of utilization, which are every year becoming more intensive, it is felt that New Brunswick has forest resources to provide a continuous supply for the woods products industries unless the forests are destroyed through Forest Fires which in the past have reduced the forest capital materially. Failure to realize the value of the forests was one of the main causes of such destructive forest fires. With the realization of the value of our forests and the efforts of the government to prevent forest fires, it is hoped that the wonderful forests so essential to the welfare of the province will be allowed to produce the necessary raw material for the perpetuation of the lumber industry and payroll of the people.

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