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Tree Planting as a Replenisher of Our Timber Supply

A Planted Area of 250 Square Miles Would Yield 100,000
Cords of Pulpwood Each Year in Perpetuity.

By *Ellwood Wilson,*

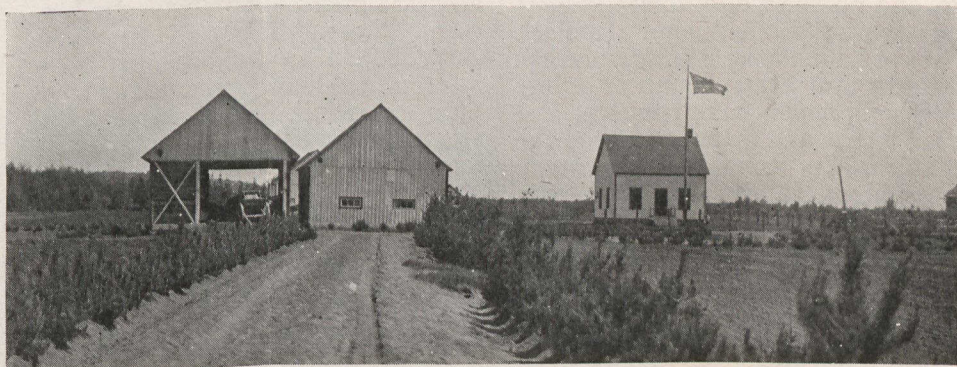
Chief Forester, The Laurentide Company, Grand Mere, P. Q.



The Editor has asked me to discuss the relative merits of artificial vs. natural replacement of our forests, or, in other words, whether it is better to let our forests alone after we have cut them, trusting to nature to reproduce them, or whether it is better to make plantations and to fill out those places in the forest where nature has not finished the job. It would be just as unreasonable to ask me to discuss, in general, the relative merits of dry farming and ordinary farming in a region blessed with normal rainfall. No farmer in such a region would dream of dry farming, and no farmer in an arid region would attempt to farm in the ordinary way. He would be a fool if he did. A forester who should attempt to plant trees on an area which nature had already stocked with 1,500 good trees to the acre would be equally foolish if he left nature to seed in a tract of bare land with no seed trees within miles of it. The two methods are complementary and must be employed together. Each has its proper place and part in a general forestry policy, and which shall be adopted depends entirely on the location and the end desired.

How Nature Works.

Let us see now what the conditions are when nature has had a free hand, taking as our example a section of the St. Maurice Valley of Quebec where we have accurate information. The description will be much condensed, as it would take too much space to go into much detail. We find, in general, a rough country, broken by ridges, with many



Growing trees and good citizens. The Laurentide Company maintains a public school on its Tree Nursery at Proulx, Quebec, where free education is provided to the children not only of the nursery employees, but of farmers in the surrounding district.



A new seed bed at the Laurentide Company's nursery station. The men are engaged in planting white spruce seed gathered in the St. Maurice Valley.

lakes, some swamps, and a poor soil underlaid with granite. In the very wettest swamps there is nothing but coarse grass, where the swamps are not so wet we have stunted black spruce, often well over 100 years old