

## ***Ontario's Forestry Problem***

**T**HE opportunity for the beginning of a new era in the forestry situation in Ontario was created by the recent announcement of the Provincial Government that henceforth the timber administration on Crown lands will be under the Provincial Forestry Branch, instead of comprising a separate organization, in which no foresters were employed. This is the most important development which has yet taken place in the forestry situation in Ontario.

By this action, assuming that its logical consequences will follow, Ontario aligns herself with the Provinces of Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick, which had already recognized the necessity for taking thought for the future by making foresters responsible for the technical administration of Crown timber lands. A partial example had been set by the Dominion Government at a still earlier date, when the Dominion Forestry Branch was placed in charge of the timber administration on Dominion forest reserves in the west, exclusive of licensed lands or timber limits.

Nova Scotia has almost no Crown timber lands, nearly all her forests having passed into private ownership many years ago. The need for a provincial forest service there is based upon the opportunity for the development of better forestry practice on these privately-owned timber lands, and upon the urgent need for a greatly intensified system of forest protection, to cover all the forested area of the province.

Prince Edward Island is not a forest province, her land area being very largely under cultivation.

Ontario is then the last of the forest provinces to recognize the necessary and logical connection between forestry and foresters. The recent action should and no doubt will mark the beginning of an era in which the fullest practicable consideration will be given to so regulating the methods of cutting on Crown lands as to leave them in a condition to produce another crop of valuable timber species. It has been thoroughly established that logging operations in which cutting is

not regulated with an eye to future productivity are generally destructive to the quality and quantity of the future growth. Each area requires to be carefully studied in advance of cutting, so that the method of treatment to be prescribed may be adapted to local conditions and at the same time be practicable from the operator's viewpoint, to say nothing of being reasonable from the viewpoint of additional cost involved.

Ontario is to be congratulated upon the progressive action taken in thus far recognizing the need for a technical administration of Crown timber lands. The Provincial Forestry Branch has a great responsibility and a great opportunity for public service in the prospective addition to its previous work of forest protection, of the inauguration of forestry practice upon the great areas of Crown lands which have now come under its jurisdiction. Progress will necessarily be slow; economic conditions must be fully recognized; and it will take time to develop the kind of organization required for so large a task. Public sentiment, is now undoubtedly fully ripe for the development of this situation along the most modern lines. It must, however, make itself actively felt, in support of a really progressive forest policy.—Clyde Leavitt, in *Conservation*.

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### **Forestry in the British Isles**

The annual value of the imports of timber and timber products into the British Isles previous to the war was about £40,000,000, and about 80 or 90 per cent. of timber imported was coniferous. A considerable proportion of this might be grown in the British Isles, where huge tracts of land could be more economically occupied in growing trees than as at present, and healthy occupation thereby provided for a much larger rural population, of whom a proportion would be small-holders, reaping the benefits of both forestry and agriculture.