

FOREST EXPLOITATION MADNESS

Editor,
Sir,

One reads in the public press that impending developments in the new-print industry involve an additional 3000 tons a day of Canada's output of paper, an increase of 64%. Roughly, this means a further demand upon our pulpwood supplies of 1,350,000 cords a year, added to our present consumption of close upon 4,600,000 cords.

Where is all this wood to come from? Shipments of unmanufactured pulpwood out of the country are increasing. Fires and other destructive agencies continue to take an almost incalculable toll. Restriction of pulpwood exports, the one practical and efficacious means of effecting an appreciable and immediate saving of our wood supply, continues to be a subject for academic discussion with our government. Nothing is being done.

One wonders whether thinking has not become a lost art with our public men. Is it possible that those responsible for the maintenance of our pulp and paper industry can have given a thought to what these enormous inroads on their raw material will mean. Do they realize whither their industry, with its enormous capital investment, now approaching three hundred millions of dollars, is heading? Do the Canadian people realize how rapidly Canada is approaching conditions that now exist in China, the most blighted country in the world? How long are the people going to remain deaf, dumb and blind in respect to what is happening in the small remnant remaining of our once enormous forest wealth.

Instead of making additional inroads into our forests for the production of paper of which there is even now an over-supply in the world's markets, we should be reducing the cut of publicly-owned timber by at least 50 per cent thereby creating a market for all wood cut by bona fide settlers. Instead of shipping upwards of 1,250,000 cords of wood a year out of the country we should insist upon every stick of it being kept here. Instead of allowing vast areas to be devastated every year by forest fires, we should provide the adequate means for fire protection. Radiographing finely-phrased speeches once a year during save-the-forest week is not enough.

My advice to every holder of standing pulpwood at present is to reduce his cut to his lowest minimum requirements. He will be serving his own interests, as well as conserving those of his country, by so doing, since values are bound to increase as exhaustion of supply becomes more and more imminent. This is the reason why the American exploiters of our forests, through their Canadian agencies and associates, are today spending large sums of money in the Canadian press in other ways in an attempt to lull to sleep the Canadian people so as to permit their continued access to our forests, while across the line they

are carefully conserving their own supplies to serve them when we have foolishly co-operated with them to exhaust our own. If, as they say in their propaganda, the quantity of wood exported is of insignificant proportions, why are they spending so much money to keep it from being reduced and, incidentally, to make Chinese out of the Canadian people?

The situation calls for an immediate and complete embargo upon pulpwood exports, restriction in cutting on Crown lands by 50%, and at least four times the present expenditure for fire protection and forest upkeep. An ounce of conservation is worth a pound of reforestation. Example:—In the province of Quebec in 1924, 1000 acres were replanted, while over six million acres were burned over, while not less than, thirty-five million trees were shipped out of the country to furnish raw material for American manufacturers. What incentive is there for either private or public capital to apply itself to reforestation while these conditions are allowed to continue unchecked.

One of the serious arguments put out by the Americans in their self-appointed task of advising Canada what to do with our forest resources is that we might better ship them our pulpwood than to burn it up. There might be something in this if it were not for the fact that the wood exported is taken from our most accessible and therefore our most easily protected stands. Fire, as a rule, takes its toll from the more remote areas. Thus we have two great destructive agencies—fire and needless exploitation—both working to reduce our wood supply to a mere memory.

It is not so much education on the forest situation that Canada needs but ACTION. Let no one be deceived with the suggestion that this is a one-man idea. It is the sober, solemn judgment of the best foresters and lumber operators in Canada. The public are already thoroughly educated. They are aware of the crisis facing our country. Both through the press and from the platform the demand for action is loud and insistent. But it brings no response from those who should be the guardians of the public interests and who alone have the power at present to act. We are still cutting, burning and exporting our wood as if the main object was to get rid of our last tree as rapidly as possible. An immediate reduction in the amount of the annual cut would not only help to conserve our small remaining supply but would put an end to the mad exploitation, shown in the building of new and unnecessary mills, and furnish an immediate market for all settlers' wood.

The question is not one of protection or of imposing additional restraints upon trade. It is simply one involving the saving of Canada from national bankruptcy and from a fate such as that which has befallen all lands that have suffered the destruction of their forests.

FRANK J. D. BARNJUM
Montreal, May 18th, 1925.

OXIDATION OF AERIAL WIRE

A chemical action on the aerial wire caused by atmospheric impurities, smoke etc. which causes the surface of the wire to have a black, dirty appearance. This is said to have a detrimental effect upon the aerial in that it will not pick up the electrical impulses as well as a wire which is clean and bright. This theory probably is due to the fact that high frequency currents, such as those which are produced in the aerial, travel on the surface of the wire and not in the center. If this is a fact, then the clean, bright wire should give the best results. In many cases it has been found to be very good practice to gold plate the aerial wire, as this prevents oxidation to a great extent.

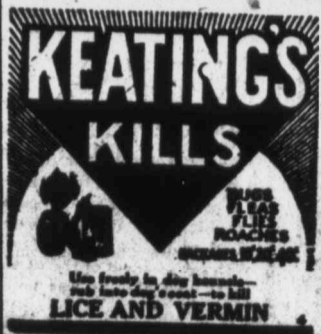


FOREST FIRE DAMAGE FOR APRIL 1925

New Brunswick got away to an early start in 1925 in the matter of forest fires. In other years the fire season was not serious until some time in May. The losses for April have been the largest ever recorded for that month. The first fire occurred on the 6th and fourteen burned at various times during the month. Fourteen hundred acres were covered by the fires, all but eighty acres being private lands. Victoria County, Carleton County and Kings County had one fire apiece, York had two and Sunbury two. The largest number was in Charlotte, which had seven. Not only did Charlotte have the most fires but that County also had the worst one; for the fire at Pennfield reported on the 28th covered one thousand acres; much of it young softwood growth. "Save The Forest Week" although well observed all over the Province, was marked by several bad fires.

These were the outstanding bad features of the first month of the forest fire season. Fires of course can have no good features but there are circumstances which account for the unusual condition of serious fires so early in the spring. Chief was the early break-up of the winter in the southern countries. There was a great contrast with the north, for there still snow there on some of the headwaters, and while forest fires were burning in the south, hauling on snow was going on in the north. In the south the fires did their outstanding damage all in one county Charlotte probably because that section was very dry last autumn and received little rain in the spring compared with the acreage covered, area being meadows and old burns. Fishing parties again are found responsible for many of the fires. Last season parties of that and similar nature caused thirty-seven per cent of the fires in the woods. There were some other causes last month. People picking mayflowers caused one fire and the intentional burning of meadows before April 15th caused others. The fire-fighting was by county councilors and local residents.

With the fire hazard increasing in the month of May, the precautions taken will be recoupled. From April 15th, when the close season for fire starts, up to the present, much supervised burning took place and until May 10th that will be allowed. The policy is the same as that of last year when supervised burning caused no damage. The regulations for the issue of certificates for forest travel went into effect May 1st, and are the same as last year with practically the same people issuing them. Fishing parties come particularly under this regulation.



BOOM ROAD SCHOOL STANDING

Leaders in Last Month's Examinations

- Grade I—Violet Sherard 1st; Burton Howe 2nd; Florence McAllister 3rd.
- Grade II (a)—Clara Sherard 1st; Wesley Sherard 2nd.
- Grade II (b)—Minnie Sherard 1st; Edie McAllister 2nd; Cora Allison and Irvine Allison 3rd.
- Grade 2 (c)—James Mullen 1st; Gordon Whitney 2nd; Ethel Sherard 3rd.
- Grade 2 (d)—George Matchett 1st; Harold Sherard 2nd.
- Grade III (a)—Charlotte Sherard 1st; Ina Howe 2nd.
- Grade III (b)—Dorothy Taylor 1st; Jamie Harris and Tommy Howe 2nd; Inest Allison 3rd.
- Grade 4 (a)—Alma Sherard 1st; Vera McAllister 2nd; Jean Allison 3rd.
- Grade IV (b)—Muriel Dunnet 1st; Annie Johnson 2nd; Arthur Mutch 3rd.
- Grade V (a)—Olive Sherard 1st; Mabel Mullen 2nd.
- Grade V (b)—Helen McTavish 1st; George Johnson 2nd; Irvine Howe 3rd.

Lumbermen Here Show Comparison Of Stumpage Rates

To uphold their claim that they must have better terms from the Provincial Government or practically go out of business the lumber operators submit this comparison of stumpage: New Brunswick \$4.00; Quebec \$2.70 (to be reduced to \$1.70); Ontario, \$2.

They also point out that a log 16 feet long and 6 inches at the top scales 24 sup-feet in New Brunswick, but only 16 feet in Quebec and four feet in Ontario.

With regard to the higher stumpage rate in New Brunswick Company lands the operators point out that the man who cuts there has no other financial burden, while the operator on crown lands must first make a capital expenditure to purchase the limits, provision for interest and sinking fund, take the chance of fire, budworm, depletion by settlers and damage by trespassers, besides paying \$8 per square mile per year, \$3.20 for fire protection—all added to the high stumpage rate.

Regarding the scale, the following is the comparison for a 16-foot log:

	N. B.	Quebec	Ont.
6-inch top	24	16	4
7-inch top	32	24	9
8-inch top	40	32	16
9-inch top	48	40	25
10-inch top	56	48	36
11-inch top	64	56	49
12-inch top	72	64	64

The great bulk of New Brunswick logs are of the smaller sizes.

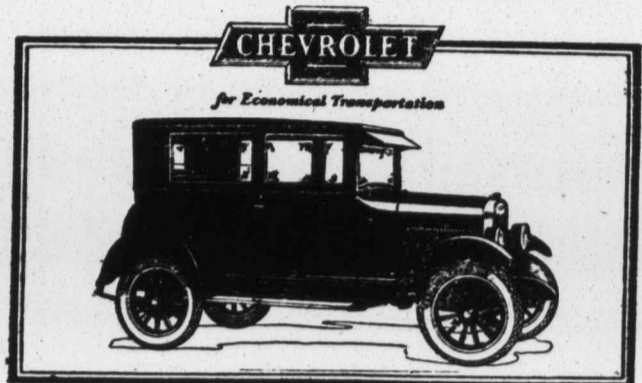
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