

THE PROTECTION OF THE WILD

The United States Government has demonstrated beyond dispute that brush and debris can be burned as the logging proceeds and that the cost of this work will add only fifteen to twenty cents per thousand to the cost of the lumber to the consumer.

Now is it not ridiculous to leave this litter and invite disaster for so trifling a sum?

It would be useless for me to tell you in detail how to handle your forests, even if I were competent to do so, for it's not your job. It would be ridiculous for me to tell the men on the job, because there are men connected with the present Ontario Government who forget more every day than I know about scientific forestry; but I can, and you can give them enthusiastic support if they try.

Broadly, there are two kinds of lands in Ontario—land fit for settlement and land fit for forests. All you have to do is to spy out, survey and separate these lands and they will all yield rich returns. The Crown Forests of Saxony yield \$4.50 per acre per annum despite extravagant, semi-military management. Ontario should have at least 50,000,000 acres of forest and game reserves instead of the 7,500,000 which you have. Some of these should be game havens, like Algonquin, some open to the sportsman as Temagami. Mr. Southworth estimates that 40,000,000 acres of forest would produce \$30,000,000 net annually.

Up in the North West corner of Thunder Bay, north of Lake Nipigon, south of Lake Joseph, and east of the Rainy River district, lies a great stretch of wilderness which should be set aside immediately as a forest and game preserve.

And when you have established these forest reserves try to attract some of the millions that are spent in Maine.

In 1906 you sold 411 shooting licenses, at the old, and by no means low price of \$25.00, yielding a revenue to the Province of \$10,275. Last year about half that number at \$50.00, realizing from this source the same amount, \$10,275.

As near as I can come at the facts, just about the same number of deer were killed; you got no more revenue and lost 205½ sportsmen who would have spent riding on the railways—including