

In the immense areas throughout which logging operations are carried on, the log slash lies, a veritable fire-trap, in which, if a fire once originates, all fighting forces are useless. Each province should pass legislation compelling every owner to burn his season's slash. Since the piling and burning of this slash would be done on the property of the owner, of necessity he would watch the slash burn with the utmost care. With the elimination of this slash, forest fires would never make the headway they do under present conditions.

Forest fires have written their name large on the map of Canada. From Atlantic to Pacific, tremendous areas have been devastated by the ravages of this ruthless monster. No more dismal sight presents itself to the eye of the spectator than the district forever rendered useless by the passing of a mighty conflagration. No government which has the interest of its people at heart, can afford to neglect the problem of forest protection. For this reason we have dealt at length with specific remedies and means of control to offset causes of forest-fires and forest-fires themselves.

Yet, forest-fire is not the only menace threatening Canada's forest heritage. Insect pests that visit certain areas periodically constitute a grave menace, chief of which is the spruce budworm. Facts have already been cited showing the destructiveness of these pests. The remedy lies wholly in inspection. It must be borne in mind that the bud-worm is a periodical pest. Rigid and careful inspection is imperative. Every timber district of each province should have an inspector with authority to secure such assistance as he deemed necessary. His duties would be, not only to watch carefully for the slightest evidence of the bud-worm and other pests, such as the black beetle which follows in the wake of the bud-worm, attacking the balsam fir beneath the bark and is therefore particularly pernicious—but he must, as well, inspect logging operations in each district to see that tops of too great size are not left, that logging slash is properly burned, and that all dead and straggling trees are cut during a season's operation. As is well known, these dead trees are veritable homes for the parasitic pests; yet we allow the operator to leave them standing year after year. These inspectors must be practical foresters and the salary must be sufficient to tempt the very best men. The government that would allow the appointments to become a reward for political service hardly understands the functions of government. Careful and rigid inspection is a prime necessity in safeguarding our timbered areas.

In any discussion concerning the Conservation and Preservation of our forest life, the large amount of pulp wood annually exported from our fee land holding to the United States must be regarded as a great menace to our future supply. We have cited the case of the money actually offered per cord during the fall of 1919. That one fact is significant of the eagerness and the need of the pulp-mill owners of the United States. Multitudes of facts, the words of the leaders in the United States industrial and political life can be arrayed to prove the need of the pulp-mills of that country for our wood, but the purpose of this discussion is not to establish a case. That is established beyond dispute. It is the purpose of this discussion to suggest practical and effective means of forest protection. To protect our country from suffering from this great annual flow to the United States, there is only one remedy, namely, an export duty heavy enough to keep our own fee land wood in our own country.

(To be continued)

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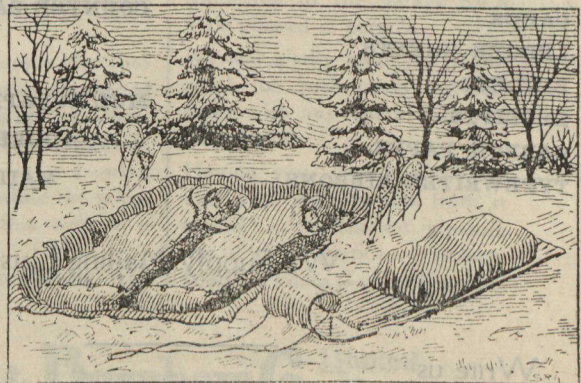
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