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Preserve the Forests

In this issue, our lead article is an exceptionally interesting story about British Columbia's gigantic lumber industry and its effect on police work within the province. Much of the material has been presented in abridged form because of space limitations, but there is sufficient detail to illustrate why lumber—and the industries allied with its use—is the biggest single economic factor in our Pacific coast province.

For a considerable period, forest products have been Canada's main commodities in world trade, exceeded only by gold. It is likely that they will retain that importance because of government interest in the development of scientific forestry and control of logging operations, in addition to the steady demand for lumber in world markets. And according to the *Canada Year Book* there is no reason why Canada cannot continue to lead the world in the exportation of lumber and its by-products because the average annual rate of growth of trees is approximately twice that needed to replace loss by normal depletion. This refers, of course, to legitimate lumbering operations, which include far-sighted reforestation programs. It does not take into account the