

E D I T O R I A L

ILLUSTRATED CANADIAN FORESTRY MAGAZINE

Published and Owned by

**The Canadian Forestry Association
Jackson Building, Ottawa, Canada**

ROBSON BLACK - - - - - Editor
GEORGE A. MACKIE - - - - - Publication Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

With Membership in Canadian Forestry Association.	\$2.00 a year
Contributing Membership	\$5.00 a year
Life Membership	\$25.00

SINGLE COPIES, 20 CENTS.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

The Editor will consider for free publication articles, photographs and communications of general interest. Rejected matter can only be returned if the necessary postage is enclosed, and no responsibility is undertaken for the safe return of such matter. When payment is desired the fact should be stated. Letters and articles must be written on one side of the paper only. The views expressed by contributors writing over their own signature are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

A Gamble in "Charcoal Preferred"

DURING the last three quarters of a century the Canadian people have permitted the destruction of a forest empire twenty times the size of the three Maritime Provinces.

There have been 4,000 forest fires in Canada this year, each one exchanging valuable public-owned timber lands for worthless wastes of charcoal and fire-weed. It is sheer business stupidity, as inexcusable as the exchange of pounds sterling for paper roubles.

The Canadian citizen of 1750 and 1800 beheld a land wherein the forest was a no-account lumberer of the ground, a trespasser on agricultural soil. He had no lumber industry to speak of, no pulp and paper industry, no highly organized domestic business calling on the forest for its daily needs. But times have changed and yet the public mind refuses to bulge. Agricultural land is not now cumbered by forests, but instead the forest is very much cumbered by worked-out farms. There is more cleared land in Canada that should be put back under forest than there is forested land that ever can be profitably cleared for agriculture.

Forest conservation is not a matter of using less wood but of growing more. Eighty per cent. of the habitable area of the Dominion is unfit for agriculture and adapted only for timber production. The timber crop and minerals are the only possible magnets to new population, new towns, new industries over that untillable eighty per cent. To-day in the markets of the world, the crops of Canada represent a precise equivalent of new factories, new employment, new sources of wages. Every year, the market valuation on forested areas rises in direct ratio to the decrease in America's timber supply and the advance in public demand for forest products. And yet with this enormously valuable public

resource owned by the people of Canada, distributing its benefits to every man, woman and child, we who boast of being astute business men are throwing into the furnace ten trees for every one we turn to use. We, the trustees of the Canadian forest, turned to ruin last summer the equivalent of a strip of timber one mile wide reaching from Halifax to Winnipeg.

Slowly, but inevitably, Canada's forest resources must come under scientific management, but right now the peremptory call is to get busy and put out the flames. Why talk of redecorating your house while the dining room is choked with smoke? Unless the present plague of forest conflagration is blocked by the conscious shouldering of responsibility by every Canadian citizen, another ten years will relieve us of all need for worry about the forest resources. But let there be no confusing of plain facts. We must choose between forest fires and forest industries. The two things cannot travel in double harness, nor live in the same pasture. We must choose one or the other and the choice must be made right now, for another few years an inert public will solve the matter quite thoroughly for us.

Forest protection is not protection of a tree. It is an insurance policy on pay envelopes, operating industries, thriving municipalities and public revenues. It means a sense of self preservation and a partnership in upholding the rights of the future. It means that we admit and practise the gospel that we have no right to play the prodigal with a resource that cost us not one penny and that appears in the Will of Providence as the common property of the generations that follow.

An Editorial by C. Price Green,

*Chief Commissioner of Industries and Resources,
Canadian National Railways.*

EVERY forest fire that broke out within fifty miles of the Canadian National lines this summer stole away some of our immediate or potential traffic and delayed to that degree the financial buoyancy of the public-owned system.

A large mileage of the Canadian National runs through natural timber-growing lands which can never produce any other marketable crop than timber. At the same time, these wooded regions are generators of tourist traffic and account for the rapidly expanding number of visitors from the United States travelling on our lines, as well as for the great volume of recreational travel on the part of Canadians. The security of the forests, therefore, is absolutely vital to the solvency of any railroad system in this Dominion.

The destruction of forests by fire this year was not the work of the railways, as Government reports will prove, but of fishermen, campers, settlers, and woods travellers generally. It is the careless citizen, himself a shareholder in the Canadian National, who can wreck or maintain these forest resources so essential to our national prosperity and the successful operation of the public owned railway system."