

to 50 million acres. A liberal allowance will bring the stand to about the same amount as is still found in the East, namely, 300 billion feet, another seven years' supply for our neighbours which they have to a large extent already exempted.

The vast remaining territory no doubt contains timber, and sometimes of good character, but this is all needed for the development of the country itself and does for the most part not occur in such quantities and locations as would invite commercial exploitation except for home use.

These figures we must admit are mere reasonable guesses, and the absence of more reliable information is rather a reflection on the managers of your national property, and suggests the first step of reform which every provincial and the Dominion Government should take, namely, to secure a descriptive forest survey, a taking of stock of the property of which hitherto they have disposed without any adequate knowledge.

Such forest surveys (which are not surveyor's surveys) can be made much less expensively than is usually believed, much of the information being already in existence but not compiled for use.

It should be collected, not as it has been hitherto, by timberworkers, merely with a view as to where the commercial exploitable timber is to be found, but with a view of furnishing the basis for plans of future management of the forest area as a whole.

This work, to be sure, requires experts and these are as yet in existence only in small numbers, yet there are enough to make at least a beginning, and the Dominion Government has, I believe, made a laudable beginning.

The next thing to be done is the formulation of plans of future management and that involves a scrutiny of the existing timber limit licenses with a view of their eventual termination and at least more specific regulations as regards the cutting and taking care of the debris gradually bringing them in line for conservative forest management.

It must be realized that no general rule as for instance a universal diameter limit, or even of the burning of debris, will work satisfactorily in all cases. Each case requires specific consideration and description. And especially in working the untouched limits and forest reservations, in which probably all the remaining unlicensed timber, or, at least, all non-agricultural lands should be placed, proper working plans should be made and followed, *i.e.*, forestry practised from the start.

That these requirements can only be met by the employment of technically educated men is self-evident. Their absence may in part account for the absence or slow progress in the movements indicated. I feel, therefore, that the establishment of the Faculty of Forestry at the University of Toronto, for the education of such technical men, was one of the most necessary first steps, and I also welcome a similar step in the University of New Brunswick, although I am not an advocate of multiplication, but rather of increase in quality of educational institution.

The reasons for the scanty results of the long continued propaganda on behalf of conservative forest management, for the delay of a vigorous reform would, then, appear to be.

1. Lack of realization on the part of governments that supplies are rapidly waning and that, hence, necessity for conservation has arrived.
2. Lack of realization that the forest resource of Canada can and must be made permanent, because of soil and climatic conditions, and because of its influence upon waterpowers.
3. Lack of personnel to inaugurate and carry on any forest policies involving technical knowledge.