

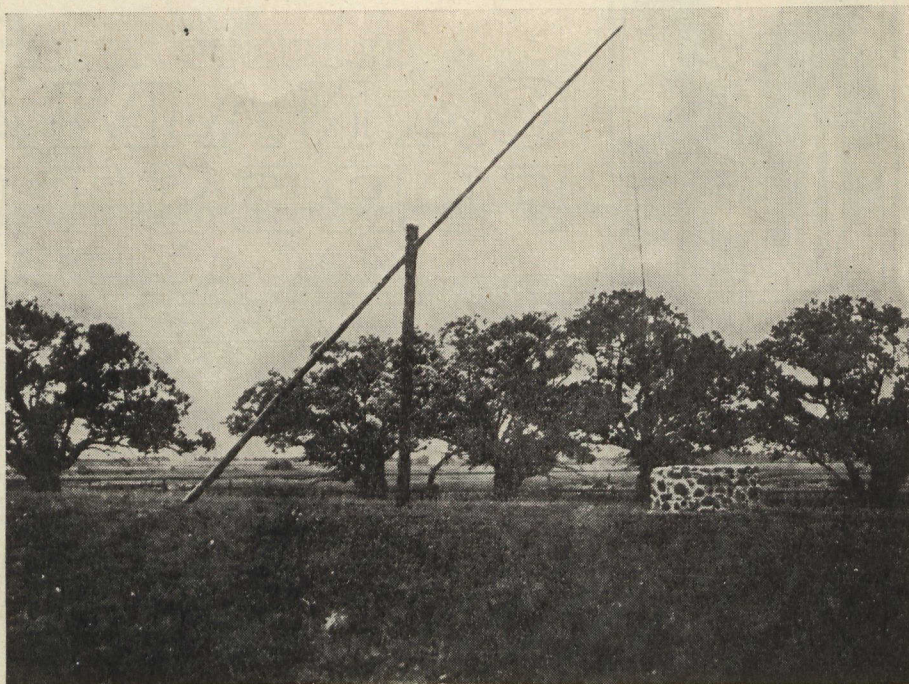
nual loss from preventable forest fires is in the same category. Before any government can take the matter of the Christmas tree trade so seriously as to contemplate prohibiting exports, it should first cast out the beam in its own eye, by providing really effective forest fire protection and by taking steps to eliminate unnecessary waste of merchantable material in connection with logging operations on Crown timber lands. This applies to Crown timber areas under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Government, and also each of the provincial governments, without any exception.

The greatest pity in connection with the Christmas tree trade is that the farmers or other private land owners often secure so small a percentage of the retail selling price in payment for the trees so cut. There is an excellent opportunity here for a regularly established business, paying good returns for the labor and capital involved. As a matter of fact, in various parts of Canada and the United States, the systematic growing of Christmas trees is a regularly established business. In some cases the cost of establishing forest plantations for the growing of pulpwood or lumber is largely paid for by the thinnings taken out from time to time in the form of Christmas trees. In other cases, plantations are established for the sole purpose of sale in the form of Christmas trees. These are paying businesses, and there is no more apparent reason why obstacles should be placed in their way, than would apply in the case of any other industry manufacturing goods for export or for local use.

A Paying Plantation.

On page 391 of the Canadian Forestry Magazine for September, 1921, is a report of intensive management of a forest plantation for Christmas tree production. This plantation is situated in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, and consists of spruce and balsam,—species which are very plentiful in eastern Canada, and the ones generally cut for Christmas tree purposes. In this case, the method of operation is to cut off the tree above the lowest whorl of branches, removing also all of the lowest whorl except one branch, which is left on the stump. This branch continues to grow, and finally assumes an upright position, taking the place of the original stem, and developing branches of its own, so that in time it can itself be cut for another Christmas tree. In this way the plantation has been managed for continuous production during the past 20 years.

It is probable that all the Christmas trees cut in Canada each year would not be more than could be grown on a very few square miles of fully stocked plantations, either under the above system or by replanting each year to replace the trees



The well of Evangeline, at Grand Pré, Nova Scotia. (See accompanying note.)

The Willows at Evangeline's Well

"At Grand Pré, too, are the Acadian willows, not only picturesque, in themselves, but wearing an air of romance and poetry that enriches the whole scene. It is hard to believe we live in the things of to-day in the presence of the willows of Grand Pré. There are a few very old and very decrepit ones on the road leading from the railway station toward the town. They can be regarded with unstinted emotion and unbridled imagination, for there can be no doubt that they were really put there by French hands as much as a hundred and fifty years ago, and have witnessed the tragic scenes that make the

history of this part of the country so memorable.

But it is in a meadow upon which the railway station faces that the interest of to-day chiefly centres. Across a wide field is to be seen a row of willows, and near them is an old French well, of course called Evangeline's well. There is no question about the antiquity of the well. It is as genuine as the willows, and if the pilgrim wishes to touch its sacred water with his finger-tips one does not see how harm could follow."—From Margaret Warner Morley, "Down North and Up Along."

removed. The area involved in this business is so small in proportion to our enormous areas of forest lands as to be practically negligible.

We Sell to U.S. 320,000 of Them.

So far as trees cut for export are concerned, it is estimated from Customs Department returns that around 320,000 Christmas trees, valued at \$50,982, were exported from Canada to the United States during November and December, 1920. At 1,000 trees per acre, this would represent the annual product of 320 acres or one-half of one square mile of plantations. Assuming a growth period of 10 years after planting, the area required to produce this number in perpetuity would be 3,200 acres or 5 square miles, assuming that the crop would be worked on rotation, the area cut over each year being at once planted up. For natural growth, the area would of course be larger, but in any event not of any substantial consequence in proportion to the considerations

above discussed. Hundreds of square miles of forest lands, containing more or less of valuable young forest growth, are burned over each year, by preventable fires, due to the lack of adequate provision for prevention and control.

The Christmas tree trade is a legitimate business. It furnishes winter employment and brings in a substantial revenue. Those who purchase its product presumably get value received, in the form of pleasure for themselves and their families, else they would not spend their money in that way. The cutting of Christmas trees is not prohibited in any of the States of the American Union, a popular misconception to the contrary notwithstanding.

The very commendable anxiety for the future of our forests might much better be directed toward securing really adequate protection from fire over the hundreds of thousands of square miles of forest lands where the provision for this is still inadequate.