EMPIRE FORESTRY CONFERENCE

Announcement is made that the second session of the British Empire Forestry Conference will take place in Canada during the coming summer. The official meetings of the conference will be held in Ottawa but arrangements are under way whereby tours will be made to enable delegates to view forest conditions and forest industries in various parts of the Dominion. Delegates will be present from all British Dominions and the colonies, with a larger group representing the British Isles.

LEAD PENCILS

Where do all the lead pencils come from, and where do they go? Although almost everybody has one, many folk never buy one, but, even so, more than 750,000,000 are manufactured for use in the United States alone every year, requiring many thousands of cords of wood.

But, says an American paper, woods suitable for lead pencils are becoming scarcer, and many manufacturers are turning to paper. Red cedar and red jumper, are the woods chiefly used in making lead pencils. A hunt is on for other kinds of wood that will take the place of these. In East Africa a kind of cedar has been found with which experiments are being made. The production in the United States is about 80,000 cases of pencil slats per year. From each case 100 gross of pencils is made. This results in about 1,000,000,000 pencils of American-grown cedar.

As far back as history goes man has tried to make things to mark with and to set down his thoughts. The Aztecs and the Pharaohs had crude marking devices. As early as 1750 Kalm, a Swedish naturalist, made experiments with American cedar. In 1812 William Monroe made 500 pencils at Concord and sold them in Boston, but the war stopped his plans. In 1861 Eberhard Faber began making pencils on a large scale in the United States.

The graphite which makes the mark is, of course, the important part in the manufacture of the pencil. Ceylon has furnished much of the graphite used in America. Graphite is also found in Madagascar and in Mexico. Czecho-Slovakia contains deposit of both the amphorous and crystaline graphite. In the United States the chief deposits are in Albama, New York, and Pennsylvania.

DE-INKING OF OLD PAPERS

At the Superintendents Convention at Kalamazoo, Sidney D. Wells of the Forest Products Laboratory described what he classed as a successful test of a process of de-inking old newspapers in a Minnesota mill which used 1,500 tons of old newspapers in making newsprint which was sold and shipped as part of its regular product. This re-manufacture would mean elimination of heavy freight charges, and a great conservation of raw material.

Forest Engineers in Annual Meetings

The annual meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers held at Montreal on Wednesday, January 24th, was probably the most noteworthy in the history of this young organization. The dinner held at the Mount-Royal on the evening of the 23rd was addressed by Professor J. W. Toumey, of Yale Forest School, and the discussion of points afterwards drew other members into the arena. Dr. Clifton D. Howe presided. The Canadian Forestry Magazine hopes to publish at least a condensation of several of the papers presented at the meetings held on Wednesday, the 24th.