

*a conservative lumbering of the present stand must in all cases be regarded as the basis of the forest policy.* Such natural regeneration is to be preferred as being vastly cheaper and in many if not most cases quite as efficient as artificial planting.

All methods of natural re-seeding of forests—and they are many to suit the many varying conditions found in the forest—agree in at least one thing, viz: that trees which, under a clean-cutting system, might be cut and removed at a profit must be left on the the ground in greater or less number that they may maintain the production of the soil by growing to a larger size themselves, and by seeding up the spaces opened by the removal of their neighbors.

Any method of taxation, lease, or sale of woodlands which makes it in the interest of the operator who controls for the time the standing timber to cut clean or to cut the more valuable species only without regard to the future of the forest, is evidently prohibitive of any system of natural re-seeding.

The virgin stands of timber on the public lands of the different Canadian provinces are disposed of under some form of lease or license, which although differing widely in detail, are in all cases practically the same in principle. The timber is paid for under these leases as follows; (1) by a payment of certain "stumpage dues" of so much per M on the amount of material removed at the time of logging; (2) a ground tax or "rent" of so much per square mile per annum; and (3) where the limits have an estimated value over and above the "stumpage dues" and "ground rent," and are put up at public auction, a portion of the value of the timber is paid for in a third form, termed "bonus," which of course varies very greatly according to the location and character of the timber sold. In recent sales in this province the "bonus" has proved to be the largest portion of the market value of the stumpage sold.

Before discussing the influence of these financial conditions on the manner of cutting which the lumberman may adopt, it must be admitted that in justice to himself he must cut according as he will receive the greatest financial return for himself and his family. It may also be assumed that being a lumberman, and in most cases also a mill owner, he has a very real interest in the protection and development of the forest as a log producer in perpetuity. The fact that lumbering in Canada has in the past been almost uniformly destructive to our forests is due not to any lack of interest in the future of the forest on the part of the lumbermen, nor even chiefly to a lack of knowledge of how to care for the woods—though doubtless this has contributed—but primarily to a *lack of security from fire and from theft* (by "timber sharks," who in the guise of settlers steal his timber); and