

Look to the Raw Materials!

By the Editor of the Montreal Financial Times.

Practically half the Canadian pulp mills are situated in the province of Quebec. Geographically, the Province of Quebec is ideally situated in this respect. Quebec is much nearer the ultimate market for most pulpwood products than any other district containing an equal supply of the raw material. The rivers in Quebec, with possibly but one or two minor exceptions, flow to the south ward, and here again is Quebec's position unique, for it places her mills in direct connection with the heart of the timber lands. It has been stated that in no matter what part of the province timber is cut, it can be floated to market with ease.

The war has done much to broaden the scope and value of this—Canada's premier industry—and to make her manufactured article known and favourably thought of the world over. It has been the means of bringing the Canadian product into direct competition with the product of the Scandinavian mills—and it has stood the test. The day is not far distant when the paper which is manufactured in Eastern Canada will create a new standard of quality for the world.

But the industry must not be abused, particularly in sections of the country where it is now most strongly entrenched.

The supply of wood can be made practically everlasting if each section of land is properly cleared and precautions taken to ensure another crop in a given time. These precautions have been the matter of much discussion and extensive study on the part of foresters and various means to bring about this end have been and are being tried out.

In such times as the present when paper mills are operating at a high rate of capacity some such measures must needs be taken. When it is mentioned that within the past six or seven years the consumption of pulpwood in the St. Maurice Valley

alone has increased nearly 250 p.c. this point can readily be appreciated.

Much Constructive work

Protective measures are necessary against man's most dreaded enemy—fire. In the St. Maurice Valley, with a watershed of 16,000 square miles, some 35 p.c. has been burned over, while about the same percentage has been lumbered, so that the balance of virgin forest is not large in proportion. Methods for saving the natural forest resources of the province, are, of course, continually being improved and this is a most satisfactory point to note from a national viewpoint.

The importance of this work cannot be under-estimated and should receive every possible encouragement. It will ultimately make the Province of Quebec the greatest pulp and paper producing area of its size in the world, bringing into the country untold millions of dollars each year and assuring Quebec its "place in the Sun."

ONTARIO'S FOREST REVENUE

The important part the Crown timber lands of Ontario play in defraying the costs of civil government is indicated by the fact that during the last provincial year forest revenue was collected aggregating \$1,695,703, a gain of \$360,382 over the previous year, and including \$115,327 collected from limit-holders as fire-ranging dues. Nearly one hundred million feet less pine lumber was cut than during the precedent year, labor shortage operating largely toward this diminishment, although the progressive depletion of the white pine forests is clearly recognized. The total pulpwood "cut" for the province was 445,978 cords, of which approximately equal amounts were cut from settlers' lots and Crown timber areas. It is regarded as beyond question that the pulp and paper interest will continue to expand and this development will materially aid in the redemption of Canada's war debt.