

The value of this land will soon be greatly increased, for the first-rate wheat lands on the other side of the Border already show signs of exhaustion.

Next to agriculture comes "lumbering." The annual product of lumber is valued at over one hundred and twenty-five millions of dollars. The destruction of our forests, it is true, is proceeding at an alarming rate. Fires, which cut off vast numbers of young trees, do even more harm than the lumbermen. The end of the white pine is considered to be within measurable distance. Mr. Macoun of the Geological Survey states that twenty-five years ago two hundred thousand square miles of the Algoma district were a solid coniferous forest. To-day this block is completely denuded. The same tale must be told of the Rockies and the Selkirks. The loss and waste have been enormous. Nevertheless Mr. Macoun estimates that we still possess a forest belt which extends from the watershed of Labrador to the mouth of the Mackenzie, a belt which, although comparatively narrow near the Atlantic coast, stretches in the meridian of Lake Winnipeg from Lat. 50 to Lat. 58 and at the base of the Rocky Mountains from Lat. 53 to Lat. 67. In round numbers this belt contains one million, five hundred thousand square miles of pine, spruce, tamarack, and aspen poplar. The value of these woods is greatly enhanced by the fact that the forests of the United States—of Maine and the Saginaw valley, for instance—are diminishing rapidly, and that the only natural and available source of supply for certain sections of our neighbour's territory, for the treeless prairies of the West, will in a short time be on our side of the line.