

WHAT DOES CONSERVATION MEAN.

'What does conservation mean? It means preservation, not waste; efficient development, not locking up these resources; the reasonable uses of them, having regard to the nation's interests; and last, but not least, the participation by the people in all the advantages and benefits of our natural resources.'

Hon. R. L. Borden, Premier of Canada.

ONE FARMER'S WOODLOT.

Forty years ago George L. Pillsbury, of Boscawen, New Hampshire, bought forty acres of land for \$1,000 and set it aside as a wood lot. Even at that date he believed that timber could be made a profitable farm crop. The conditions were somewhat favorable to the success of the experiment, as Mr. Pillsbury was a builder and required native timber in his operations. During the forty years he has practiced conservative forestry he has converted the timber that decayed or developed serious defect into cord wood and the mature timber into building material, shingles, etc. Of exact figures none are at hand. It is known, however, that this forty yielded twenty cords of wood a year, aside from building material. Thus far in 1911 the lot has produced one car of spruce pulpwood which totalled eight and nine-tenths cords and brought \$8 a cord f. o. b. station. In addition, 1,500 feet of hemlock sleepers were taken out this year and they brought from \$16 to \$20 a thousand. The wood output this year was thirty-five cords at \$4.50 a cord, the 1911 production being a little heavier than usual. A few years ago Mr. Pillsbury sold seventy-five trees for \$13 a thousand on the stump. They scaled 51,420 feet and brought him \$668.46, more than two-thirds the price of the original forty.

The coniferous forest of Besancon, France, yields an income of about \$16 per year per acre.

The forester of British East Africa estimates the Government timber area at 2,000,000 acres; this area is about equal to the woodlands of England. There are nine nurseries, with two branch nurseries. During the fiscal year 1910, ended March 31, 355,000 young trees were set outside, leaving in the nurseries more than 800,000 trees. An increased quantity of native timber is being used locally; nine saw-mills employ some eighty Indian pit sawyers, who are engaged in this work. No exportation has yet been made.

FOREST DESTRUCTION IN ITALY.

The British Consul at Naples, reporting on the attitude of the Italians toward the forests, writes: 'There appears to be little popular regard for the value of forests in the national economy. One of the worst evils which this important asset of the country suffers from is that of fires, many of them undoubtedly wilful; during 1908 no less than 6,000 hectares (14,820 acres) of forest were destroyed by fires, of which at least a third were known to be due to incendiarism. The point is that the maintenance of the forest is to the general interest, whereas its destruction is to the individual interest of the proprietor, as he can then at least cultivate the land for some years and use it as a pasture later. An example is cited of state forest administration in the Abruzzo. During the years 1907 and 1908 no less than 19,000 hectares (46,930 acres) of forest were destroyed by fire; while in forty years, at the expense of millions, the government has succeeded in reafforesting only 27,000 hectares (66,690 acres). One of the remedies suggested is the exemption of forests from all taxation. At present the proprietors are prohibited from cutting down their woods, and yet have to pay taxes on them to government, province and commune.'

THE LOSS OF A TREE.

A Chicago newspaper says that foresters are interested in a recent New York court decision affirming a claim for \$500 as the "going value" of a tree cut down by a construction company. Nor was the award based on sentiment or granted merely as an exemplary matter. The tree alive had been a thing of growing value; cut down, the greater value to which it might in time have attained was forestalled. Consequently the measure of damage sustained in its present loss was not complete, but partial. It may be that to estimate its possible later value would entail a draft on the imagination as to definite amount, but the doctrine laid down by the court was sound.

The Worcester (Massachusetts) Woman's Club, one of the largest clubs in the general federation of woman's clubs in the country, with a membership of 600 and a waiting list, is one of the staunchest supporters of forest conservation in this state. There is a strong committee, which follows every state and national move in the interests of preserving the forests; and, wherever possible, legislators are approached by this committee to help along the good work.