

a school for rangers. To complete this educational movement, we would have liked to have some of our men lecture in the different centres, but this may not be done for a few years, as at present there are other subjects demanding attention.

**Ownership of Quebec Forests** As you are aware, the province of Quebec has a total forest area of some 130 million acres, of which 45 million acres have been leased to the limit-holders, five million acres belong to private individuals, and the remainder, some 80 million acres, is in virgin forest.

We have had very little to do yet with the management of the private lands, but we know that there are many reforms that should be made, and it is one of the problems that will be considered in the near future. We would like to establish a system of co-operation with the private holders so as to place their wood-lots under a permanent system of exploitation. At the present time, our activities in this field have been limited to the re-forestation of waste lands and I may say that this movement has aroused a good deal of interest in the province. The demands for young trees are now coming in greater number each year, so that we have had to increase the capacity of our forest nursery at Berthierville.

**Danger from Speculation** To protect our timber lands from the encroachment of land speculators under cover of colonization, we have to maintain an active watch over the lots sold each year. As soon as we have collected sufficient proof that the occupation of the land is not *bona fide*, a report is made asking for the cancellation of the sale. Often our action is completed by the collection of heavy fines imposed upon the timber which has been cut by trespassers. This rigid control has caused a diminution in the number of lots sold each year, but we believe that a better class of settlers has come to the front, knowing that they would be encouraged and protected against the land speculator.

**Classification of Lands** During the past year much time has been devoted to the classification of lands, nearly 500,000 acres being so examined. One of the causes of bad lumbering in certain sections of our province has been the uncertainty of the limit holders whether their limits would vanish under the attacks of land speculators, resulting in a sort of a race between the lot-seeker and the limit-holder, the latter trying to cut the timber as quickly as possible in order to forestall any efforts of the former to secure it. By a rigid inspection of the lots and a thorough classification of the townships, these elements of disturbance have now disappeared and the lumbering is taking a more steady course.