

## Sweden Banks on Applied Forestry

By Edward Beck.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, May 21.—The forest areas of Sweden cover some fifty-five million acres, of which about two-thirds are in private ownership and the rest government owned. The community of interest between the government and the private owners is readily apparent. It manifests itself in close co-operation by both interests for the protection and betterment of existing forests and of provision for their perpetuation. On the surface, at any rate, there is complete harmony. It is true that "the future of Sweden lies in her forests" and that the State is trying to increase its holdings by the purchase of private forests wherever possible, but there is no general demand for the confiscation, by purchase or otherwise, of the private holdings.

All cutting, whether on private or public lands, is subject to the same strict regulations. Private owners willingly submit to whatever rules are imposed for the general good. The nature and extent of these rules and regulations will be dealt with later.

It is of interest to note that the public forests are not sold or leased to private interests as in Canada. When the Government has pulpwood or other standing timber to dispose of its foresters go into the forests and mark each identical tree to be cut down with an individual number. These trees may be scattered over a wide area and separated by considerable distances or they may be grouped together, as circumstances dictate. The right to cut the trees thus selected for cutting is then disposed of at public auction to the highest bidder. There is seldom any lack of competition, as most of the pulp and lumber companies are only too anxious to conserve their own resources by buying when they can buy to advantage.

### No Diameter Limit Here.

An outstanding feature of the Swedish timber regulations is that immediate profit from the felled timber is never made the chief consideration. Everything is subordinated to the purpose of ensuring a permanent yield of wood. Selection of trees for cutting is made on the basis of improving the remaining forest. The "diameter limit" regulation, as observed by some of the Canadian provinces, under which all trees cut are required not to fall below a certain prescribed minimum trunk measurement, appears to have no place in Swedish forests. Weak and immature trees are first to be taken out in order to give the sturdier ones a better chance for development. If there is any

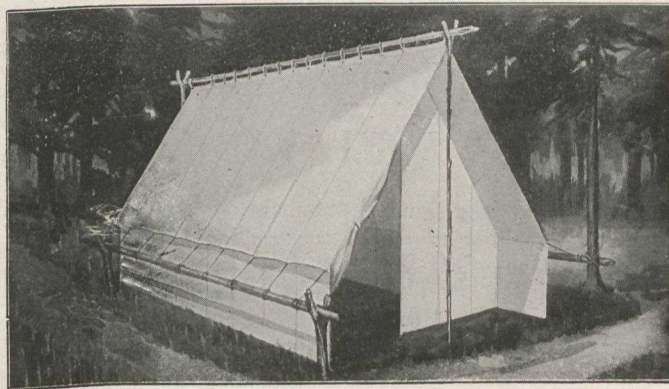
hard and fast rule employed, it would appear to be that no tree capable of increased development is allowed to be cut until it has reached its maximum growth, unless for the purpose, as already stated,

of giving a more promising tree a better chance. There is no such thing as indiscriminate cutting. All waste is eliminated. Trees are cut to within three or four inches of the ground. High stumps

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