

Norway (whose forest resources are very large) upon the European market.

THE DEVASTATION OF OUR FORESTS.

Let us suppose, for a moment, that I am mistaken; and that instead of decreasing or remaining stationary, the pulp industry progressed. The demand for raw material would naturally be greater. New concessions and timber limits would be called for in consequence. Now, if we supplied this demand, our opponents would charge us with the alienation of the public domain; with the devastation of our forests. On the one hand they reproach us for supplying the demand, and on the other they boast of a policy which would bring about similar results. Before commencing to criticise us they should be logical, and consistent with their own policy.

It is claimed that the supply of our forests will soon be exhausted. There are 222,000,000 acres of land in the province. Of this 10,679,000 acres form part of seigneuries, and 11,442,403 acres have been granted under letters patent. The Crown has therefore at its disposition about 200,000,000 acres of land, which for the greater part is richly covered with timber.

But you may desire to know what are our resources in pulp wood. And with your permission I will quote a few official documents which throw much light on this point; a point concerning which our opponents hold very erroneous ideas, and they appear to do their best to lead the public to adopt their views.

The information which I am about to give is the result of a thorough and prolonged study of the question, and it will, I am sure, dispel the uneasiness which the alarmists have endeavoured to create. In the first place, here is a report from the superintendent of Woods and Forest, based upon official figures, which are of record in my department, and may be inspected by any person.

"There are at present 62,952 square miles of land under license to cut timber.