

FORESTRY

"Rod and Gun" is the official organ of the Canadian Forestry Association.

The Editors will welcome contributions on topics relating to Forestry.

Edited by the Officers of the Canadian Forestry Association.

The second annual report of the Canadian Forestry Association, which has just been issued, is a timely and important publication. When we read in the American Lumberman, the leading lumber paper of the United States, statements like the following which appeared in its issue of the 5th of June last.— "It is true that white pine had been growing scarcer and scarcer in districts tributary to water shipment, and it had also been known to have been cut out rapidly in the interior of Wisconsin and Minnesota; but never until this year has it begun to dawn upon the minds of distributors of white pine lumber that there was an actual scarcity of the wood and that its end was in full view. This year, more than in any year since the development of the northern pine forests began, has the scarcity of white pine stumpage and lumber been significantly impressed upon the minds of the people. Witness the hegira of lumbermen to the south within the past year or two. Witness also their western flight to the Puget Sound district, to the California Slope and to the intermediate districts of Idaho and Arizona."—When we read a statement like that from so good an authority,—an organ of the lumber trade, let it be noticed, not a forestry journal,—it must be admitted by anyone who reads the paper by Mr. John Bertram, published in that report, that the Association were particularly fortunate in having the question of the management of pine forests dealt with by one who had gained such a thorough knowledge of it, practically as a lumberman, and also as a member of the Ontario Forestry Commission. It is unnecessary to mention particularly the lines on which Mr. Bertram lays down his policy of forest management, but we wish to call attention to the fact that he does not lay down his plans as final or complete. There is still much to learn of the life and habits of the trees, there are yet further problems in management to be worked out, and Mr. Bertram's paper is especially valuable as indicating the lines along which investigation should be made. In Germany thorough study and measurement has been made of tree growth, and the yield tables compiled therefrom and the knowledge of the habits of the different trees obtained as a result of this work have enabled that country to maintain a prominent place as a lumber-producing nation in spite of her great population and the large area devoted to agriculture. Thorough work, thorough development of her resources has made Germany what she is and made her feared by other nations as a competitor in the industrial world. Why should not some such forestry work be begun in Canada? Why should not some such work be carried on by the Government alone, or with the assistance of the lumbermen, but in such a way that the result of the investigations could be properly compiled and made available for the use of all? Why have the Governments set apart timber reserves if it is not the intention to make them to a certain extent, the experimental farms of the lumbermen,

as well as a perpetual source of wealth to the national exchequer?

The reforestation of the denuded areas is a question of great importance which Mr. Bertram had only time to touch upon. This is an undertaking which can probably best be carried out by the Government, and there is no question that it is a large enough one to tax its energies to the utmost. Governments, however, are supposed to live for the future as well as the present, and, if the pine is to become even to a greater extent than it has been up to the present a source of wealth to the country, should not some beginning be made in the direction of making portions of the Crown domain which are now utterly unproductive, what they might be, a rich source of revenue?

As an offset to the threatening bareness of the east, Mr. J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, introduces the Forestry Association to the great, the almost embarrassing, wealth and variety of timber there is in British Columbia, waiting only the time, of which the indications are beginning to make themselves felt, when the demand from beyond her borders will give her lumber an adequate value, and when she will be a great source of supply for the east and farther east. British Columbia is a great mineral province, but it is no rash statement to say that her timber wealth will be of fully as great importance as the products of her mines, while the beneficial effects of the forests on the physical condition of a mountainous country cannot be overestimated both for its direct and indirect effects.

No Forestry Report would be complete at the present time without some consideration of the pulp industry, and in the paper submitted by Mr. J. C. Langelier is an able presentation of the vast resources which Canada possesses for this purpose in her spruce forests. To anyone who has not given the matter attention it will be somewhat of a surprise to know how great our resources are in this respect; but although Mr. Langelier has, perhaps, as full a knowledge of the subject on which he speaks as anyone in Canada, yet it may be pointed out that these figures are only estimates, and although we may claim without hesitation a premier place for our pulpwood resources, still our knowledge of them is very far from being exact. The dangers pointed out by Mr. Langelier: fire, improper colonization, cutting of too small trees, are clearly the chief ones. The remedies, however, are not so easy of application.

The calculation submitted by Mr. Langelier as to the relative productivity of lands in the spruce districts when devoted to agriculture and pulp respectively makes very clear the fact that by encouraging settlement on such lands we are not only either condemning the settler to struggle for a mere existence after the wood has been cleared off, or encouraging the taking up of lands by persons who have no further interest in them after the wood has been removed, but we are using the land for a purpose that does not by any means make the best or most profitable use of it, either for the individual or the state. It is well that this fact should be clearly demonstrated and impressed on the mind of the public, for the views on this subject are usually very one-sided; in fact, most people can hardly be led to admit that there is anything worthy of consideration that can be said on the side of those who favor a timber rather than an agricultural crop.

The cutting of small-sized trees is a very serious menace to the reproduction of the spruce, and, although the regulations of Quebec and other provinces have provisions directed against this abuse, it may be doubted whether in all cases these provisions are fully lived up to, while as a matter of fact the information