

# *New Forests for Nova Scotia's Barrens*

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In looking over the forestry maps of Nova Scotia one cannot help but be impressed, and, if a lover of the forest, saddened, at the large percentage of the colour representing barrens. Still more will one be impressed, and saddened if he should traverse these barrens, and see the vast extent of waste, multitudes of valueless bushes, and huge pine stubs reminding us of the untold wealth which should have enriched our people. "Our Heritage" swept away in a moment!

The passing of this heritage was keenly felt by the older generation who remember the "forest primeval." Its far reaching effects pass on to the present generation, who, having a better perspective, are beginning to realize what the appalling loss really means. It is true we have some timber in sight which is being depleted by loss from windfalls and lumbering operations, and fires are still a common occurrence. Therefore, if the present generation do not endeavour to guard what we already have, the future generation will drink the bitter dregs, and the loss will be nation wide.

Many of our barrens have been visited by prospectors, seeking a hidden wealth, but they only succeeded in a small degree. Farming is out of the question, so it is evident that the only thing left for these lands to serve the public welfare is forests.

Considering the barrens of Queens County, particularly those along the watershed of the Liverpool river and head-waters, to be a fair average of barrens throughout the province, there

are a few facts regarding them which should be brought to the public attention.

Some six or seven years ago, while conducting certain surveys, I had occasion to visit many sections of barrens in Queens County. They were indeed a treeless waste, but are varied in nature owing to repeated fires over portions, so that the original burned areas can now be divided into three distinct classes:

Class 1.—Open Barrens, devoid of trees or stubs, and in some places with sufficient soil to cover the rocks.

Class 2.—Portions of barrens covered with myriads of burned trees and windfalls.

Class 2.—Portions of barrens not burned since original fire, now covered by forest of young hardwood.

During the fall of 1919 and spring of 1920, I renewed the surveys mentioned above. We were amazed and delighted to see the change nature had wrought in a few years. Spruce, red and white pine were growing by the thousands over sections of classes 1 and 2. Even on portions of Class 1, where the soil had been burned exposing rocks and boulders, where modern forestry would perhaps hesitate to replant, were also red and white pine from ten feet down, all growing in a perfectly healthy condition.

What Nature is doing on these barrens of Queen's County at the present time, and on many other portions of barrens in the Province where my interest in the matter led me to visit, is exactly in line with the policy of