

industrial life, and as years go by modern civilized man demands and uses more and more wood, all substitution by iron, steel, cement, etc., to the contrary notwithstanding.

There are some who are better acquainted with the forests than the markets, and others who are acquainted with neither forest nor markets, who still believe and speak of Canada's "inexhaustible" forests. Take any man through a 400,000 acre lot of fine forest so thoroughly that he will have seen all the trees, and it is most likely that he will be ready to believe in inexhaustible forests. Tell him that all the trees that he has seen would hardly supply the needs of the railways of North America for cross-ties for a single year, and his "inexhaustible" will appear as futile as it is. We have great but diminishing forests and great and ever growing needs for forest products.

*For the Conservation of Stream Flow.*

2. Second only in importance to the function of the forest as a producer of wood is its function as a regulator of the flow of streams.

Canada's wealth in her water-powers is very large. Some one has estimated that two-fifths of the water powers of the world are found on Canadian soil. Whether this be correct or not there is no doubt but that the water-powers of Canada vastly excel those of any other nation: What this will mean for her industrial future it is impossible to forecast, perhaps impossible to exaggerate. Add to this the value of the streams for irrigation, domestic use, and navigation, and who would dare guess how many figures would be required to express the value of Canada's streams a century or even half a century hence if maintained in their present efficiency?

If the forest lands of Canada be placed under a rational forest management, the present efficiency, by which I mean of course the regularity of her stream flow, may not be maintained only, but much increased. Present methods of lumbering with their accompaniment of fire on the lumbered lands are annually and to a large extent permanently, subtracting from the value of this great national asset.

*For Public Revenue.*

3. A third reason for conducting lumbering operations on non-agricultural lands with a view to improving and perpetuating the forests is found in the fact that it is only by maintaining such lands under forest crops that they may be made to permanently contribute to the wealth of the Provinces or the Nation. Compared acre for acre with arable lands, these rough lands have a low producing capacity. The vastness of the area involved, however, places the non-agricultural lands of Canada in the front rank of her natural resources.