

a territory nearly as large as the whole of France and Germany combined, to Ontario, which has lately spent 150 to 160 thousand dollars on its protective service.

It is not likely that a large, annually newly recruited army of incompetent, inexperienced men, appointed through political influence, even if a sprinkling of competent woodsmen is added, will successfully cope with the evil. Thorough organization of smaller groups of continuously employed, experienced men, which may be assisted by some less experienced during the dangerous season, and thorough continuous inspection while they are at work is necessary. This nucleus of permanent foresters should be directed by active superiors in charge of this special service and in sympathy with the broader policies which are to follow the effective fire protection.

I believe the Dominion Government and the Province of Quebec have the feeble beginnings of such an organization which only needs to be further elaborated. These two governments have inaugurated what would appear to be the first requirement, namely, separate government agencies to take care of the forest interests, and only an extension of their means and functions is necessary for further development.

What none of the governments have realized, not even the Dominion Government is, that a supreme effort is necessary to break away from the established usages, which a century of accumulated momentum carries over any feeble attempts to interfere with them.

A mere tinkering with the problems with little detail descriptions will not remedy anything, broad and farsight plans of action are needed.

There is no thorough realization of the seriousness of the situation, if act still doubt as to whether it exists.

The certainty as to whether we are really as close to the end of this resource as it appears, and that its condition is as dangerous as we claim, might perhaps stimulate the governments to a change of attitude and to a more decided advance towards positive improvement in their methods of management.

We do not know positively what the amount of timber standing actually is, but we can make a fair probability calculation.

The commercially valuable timberlands of the Eastern Provinces are and were always confined to the portions south of the Height of Land with an insignificant overflow along the headwaters of the northern river courses. This area which circumscribes the limits of the White Pine does not quite cover 200,000,000 acres. It is from this area that some 25 million acres have been cleared for farms at the expense mainly of the most valuable hardwoods, and that during the last 40 years the above stated values for export and home consumption were derived, not to speak of the longer but comparatively lighter drain of the period before confederation. If we were to assume an original stand of sawtimber of all kinds averaging 2,500 feet on all the acreage (1,600,000 feet per square mile), which any one acquainted with this forest type would pronounce an extravagant allowance, there never was more than 500 billion feet available. The above cited export and home requirements indicate a consumption of not less than 300 billion feet, leaving still available 200 billion feet, which by a reduction of standards may be increased to 300 billion feet. What this amount signifies can only be understood by comparison with figures of consumption: it does not represent more than seven years' supply of the annual requirements of our neighbour!

The only other commercial timber area of Canada is found in southern British Columbia. This area is by competent land lookers placed at only 30 million acres, but if the standards be lowered, we might find it extended