

2. Your second question as to the importance of Forest Conservation is, if anything, the more serious of the two.

When Canada has 25 Millions!

It is so easy to make sweeping generalizations from insufficient data and lack of careful information. So especially have we been led into error, I hope not fatal, in respect to the immensity of our Canadian timber resources. Are they inexhaustible? We have too long gone on practically upon this assumption and the assumption all along has been a false one. And so we have cut and slashed, culled the choice and burned or bunched the rest to dry for kindling new forest fires, and suffered tremendous destruction by both wasteful cutting methods and by preventable fire waste, until to-day those who think and know are pessimistic as to our available supplies of merchantable timber. And in reforestation we have done nothing.

Canada has 8,000,000 people, who have so far enjoyed easy facilities for lumber supplies. But when Canada has 25,000,000 people with their wants, which will certainly not be less than ours of this generation, what will be the sources of supply?

We must provide for our own needs here and now; we must furnish in part from our comparative abundance what our devastated allied countries need to reconstruct and we must, as trustees of the future, keep sufficient for our growing nation.

Must Improve Our Methods.

The argument need be pressed no further. The conclusions seem obvious. Canada must supervise and improve her methods of cutting and very possibly limit the yearly cut in the interests of future generations. Canada must protect her forests from fire by the wise expenditure of money in guarding and supervision. Canada must set herself diligently to the task of afforestation.

If these conclusions are just, can we not all get together, Governments, municipalities, timber owners, and all thoughtful units of citizenship, to conserve and perpetuate so indispensable and valuable an asset of the nation?

Yours sincerely,

GEORGE E. FOSTER.

Ottawa, Nov. 8, 1918.

CANADIAN LUMBERJACKS WIN.

Novel features were introduced when forestry troops from Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain held an athletic and field day "somewhere in France." There were 17 companies represented, 12 of whom were from one district group of the Canadian Forestry Corps. There were contests in cross-cut sawing, log loading, tree felling and log rolling, on land and in water. The Canadians won four of these five contests.

In the cross-cut sawing two experienced lumberjacks, who formerly worked in the neighborhood of the Ottawa River, finished the job in thirty seconds. The second and third prizes were won by men from two other Canadian companies. Speed and neatness were the qualifications required in the log loading. Three Canadian units were winners, the first doing the job in five minutes, twenty seconds.

A French-Canadian won the log rolling in water easily. He was an experienced river driver from lower Quebec, for he quickly put most of his opponents off the logs into the water. The second prize winner was a British Columbian. Three Canadians won the log rolling on land.

The director of timber operations in France gave a cup to the company winning the most points during the day. This cup went to No. 2 Canadian company, with nineteen. A private in No. 26 company, Canadian Forestry Corps, won the gold medal donated by the A.D.S.C., Canadian detached forces. Two men in these same companies made an equal number of points in the athletic events and technical contests, and so the British army forestry officer who offered a cup for the man making the best aggregate, agreed to give each of the two men a cup.

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There are 25,000,000 acres in the forest reserves in the prairie provinces and the 'railway belt' of British Columbia. The proportion of forest reserves to total area is very low, in comparison with the ratio regarded as 'good business' by progressive European states.

About \$40,000,000 a year is paid in wages to workers in the forest industries.

The United States possesses about four times as much timber as Canada.