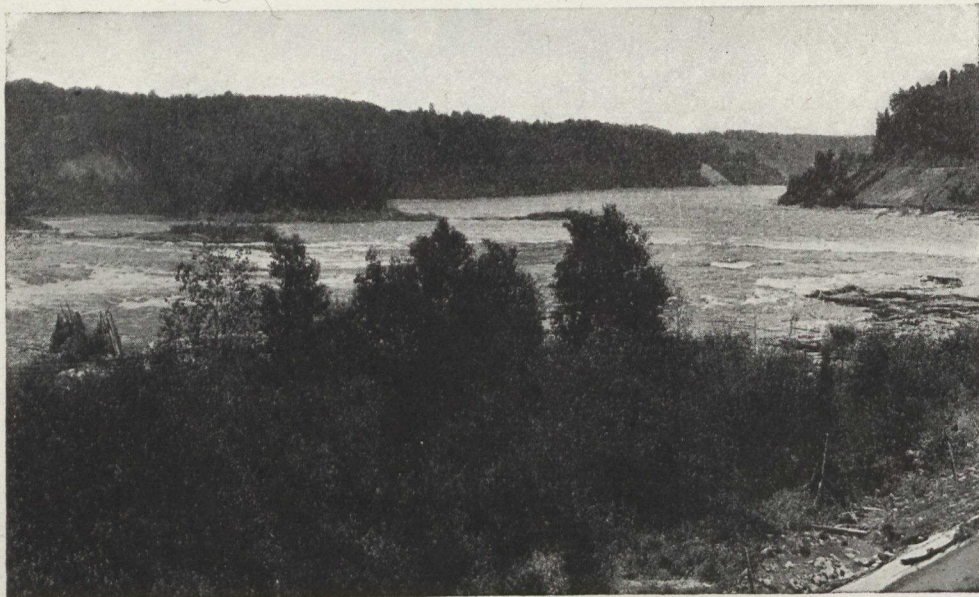


Canada Must Take Out a Timber Insurance Policy

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Le Gres Falls, St. Maurice River, Quebec.

We are told by competent authorities that the destruction of the spruce forests of the United States, east of the Rockies, is nearing completion. Fifteen years more at the present rate of consumption will see the end of their standing spruce and balsam.

This is the most serious, because spruce and balsam are the only really suitable woods for the manufacture of newsprint and sulphite paper. Pine, of which there is a fair young crop growing up again by natural reforestation, both in the United States and Canada, is suitable as a pulp only in the manufacture of kraft paper.

If such is the condition of the United States' forests, what about the forests of Canada? At the present rate of spruce and balsam consumption for pulp paper and lumber in Canada, plus the fire and insect damages and increasing demands, our forests can last about fifty years.

The Trail of Fire.

From a negligible production in 1900, the pulp paper and pulpwood consumption and exports of Canada have risen to the equivalent of over three million cords (spruce and balsam). Add to this the equivalent of four million cords (spruce and balsam) that goes into lumber, plus fire and other losses, and we find (bearing in mind also the increasing demand) that a consumption of ten million cords

per year is in sight. Now our forest capital of available spruce and balsam in Canada scarcely exceeds five hundred million cords. In the past we have lost more by fire than we have cut. Over 75 per cent of the present forest area of Canada has been burnt over at least once in the past two hundred years. We know what has happened in the United States, and we know that when the destruction has been completed there, a further heavy tax must fall on Canadian forests; we also know that the world consumption of paper is increasing every year. We know a lot of things, but democratic like, what is everybody's business we regard as nobody's business.

The first necessity in forest conservation is obviously protection from fire, and for this—thanks to the untiring energy and dogged persistence of Ellwood Wilson, of the Laurentide Company,—Quebec

Province at least is now organized for fire prevention and fire-fighting to the point of having thus far saved the country scores of millions of dollars that would otherwise have gone up in smoke.

What Quebec Province is doing for fire protection the rest of the country can do. What Europe has a little too late, awakened to do in scientific forestry, we can start before it is too late. True, our problems differ in many respects, but they can be solved. We must stop eating up the



Bow Lake, Alberta.



COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION

Anderson Lake in the Coast Mountains of British Columbia.