

THE PROTECTION OF THE WILD

Certainly it is good business to cut and market your merchantable timber, but the cutting should be done intelligently, and all brush and debris burned as the cutting proceeds, which reduces the danger from forest fires, and leaves the soil fit to receive new seed. No acre of forest should be mown like a meadow, leaving only a hateful stubble of stumps. Uncle Sam is cutting one hundred billion feet annually and growing thirty-five billion feet to fill the gap. Thirty-five years at this pace will clear his land.

Many of the once wooded mountains of Italy are barren desolate hills to-day, because when the forest was all removed the rains washed the soil away, making re-forestation impossible. From the car windows, as the train toils up the Jaffa and Jerusalem, the traveller looks out on a sear and silent land."

"By cool Siloam's shady rills,
How fair the lilies grow."

What a pretty picture!

Alas! the shade has been removed, the rill has ceased its singing—the lillies have drooped and died, and that is what will happen to the highlands of Ontario and your beautiful Laurentian hills if you do not protect them.

It is not my job to regulate the speed of motor cars, but I can't help yelling "Look Out" to the man in the street. And that's the man I'm aiming at now—the man in the street. Your property is being destroyed, not maliciously, but carelessly, and the result is the same. Protect your forest while you have it for when it is gone you will be utterly helpless. You will not be as fortunate as your neighbors. There will be no "Last Wilderness," just over the line for you to visit and enjoy, even by paying high license. Yours is the last wild, and if you squander it your children's children will sit in the sun beside silent streams that are murmuring musically to-day.

Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, has the innocence to suggest that if you will let American machines in free Uncle Sam will do as much for your pulp. The Senator neglects, however, to state that your Uncle must have the pulp but you can get along without American machinery, simply by compelling the factory to come across.