

Sweden's Royal Road to Prosperity

by GUSTAVE C. PICHÉ,

Chief of Forestry Service of Quebec Province.

OF THE different countries of Europe, which have practised forestry for a long period, Sweden is undoubtedly one of the most interesting to us, owing to the fact that the general conditions of soil, climate and forest composition and even of topography, are almost similar to ours. Therefore, I have thought it would be more advisable to limit the scope of this paper to a study of what is now being done in that part of the Scandinavian Peninsula, deducting from same a programme of reforms, which should be undertaken in the near future.

Sweden is a typical forest country, as most of its area can only be used for the growing of trees. Like Quebec a great part of its northern lands are covered with heath and glaciers, whilst the southern section is occupied by prosperous farmers and landowners.

Of the total area of Sweden, a little over one-half is composed of productive forests, giving to this country approximately 960 acres of productive forest land per 100 inhabitants. Excepting Finland, Sweden has the largest area of productive forests per capita, and also the largest forests of Europe.

It is in the northern resinous forest, that we find the most interesting

types of forest, and it is there one can study with greater advantage the methods employed to manage the forest, to remove the crop and utilize same at the mills.

The rivers of Sweden are characterized by the fact that in the North their trend is S. S. E. descending, more or less rapidly, from the mountains. They are well adapted for the driving

of logs. This enables the lumberman to remove cheaply all his products towards the sea port. I am much surprised to learn that the Baltic is not a sea, but a lake, as it practically has no tide, a fact which does not complicate the sorting of the logs and their handling in the different Fjords, on the sides of which are built the various wood-working establishments.

Many of the large companies hold extensive private forests. The Mo and Demjo has over 1,500,000 acres of forest lands in fee simple. They also buy part of the forest crop, which the Government puts up for sale every year in the various districts (Revirs.)

Where Foresters Are Used.

The organization of each company is very interesting, as we find that

the management is very anxious to give due attention to all the different aspects of the business. I was agreeably surprised to see that the foresters are called to direct all the lumbering operations, whereas in this good country of ours and the United States, we



Sweden's timber, a never-failing national asset.
Le bois de Suède, une ressource qui ne fait jamais défaut

One of the big advantages that the lumbermen meet in Sweden is that the country has been settled for many hundred centuries. In fact, most of the good farm lands, south of the polar circle, have already been cleared and are cultivated.