

Great Britain and the United States consume yearly about 900,000 tons of pulp wood—which is the product of about 90,000 acres of spruce woodland to be denuded of its spruce every year to supply the demand of these two countries. At that rate it would take 5,000 years to destroy the present existing spruce crop. But spruce reproduces itself, to the sizes best suited for pulp, in 30 years. As the first 90,000 acres cut over would have 5000 years to reproduce the second growth, it is evident that the spruce forests of Canada can stand all demands upon them without fear of total deprivation in the lapse of time.

Experts, in order to indicate the great area in Canada occupied by the spruce as its habitat, have declared that in Canada an area equal to that of England could be cut over every year and still the reproductive powers of the spruce would maintain the equilibrium of demand and supply. There may be exaggeration in this statement but it fairly enough gives expression to the immensity of the area filled for the growth of spruce.

In the Province of Quebec it is estimated that there are 200,000,000 acres of timber limits mostly timbered with black spruce, the most valuable of all woods for pulp and paper purposes.

There is still another consideration of great importance in estimating the value of the wood-pulp industry. The black spruce is considered to be better than white for pulp. As the black spruce grows on the hills and rocky ground, while the white spruce loves the valleys of the streams and other situations where there is more soil, it follows that we have a much larger extent of black than of white spruce forest.

The premier of the province recently stated that in 1892 spruce limits were sold for about \$8 per mile, while in the year 1899 the Government sold similar limits for \$150 per mile, the price thus rising, under the pressure of demand, nearly 19 times what it was seven years before.