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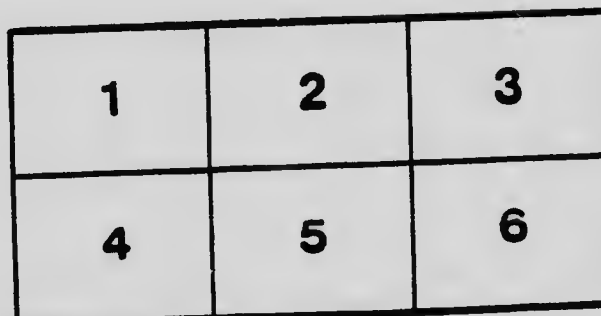
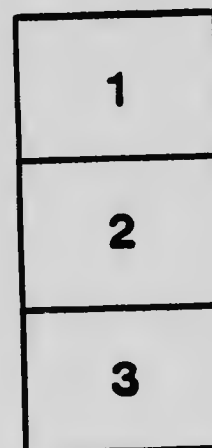
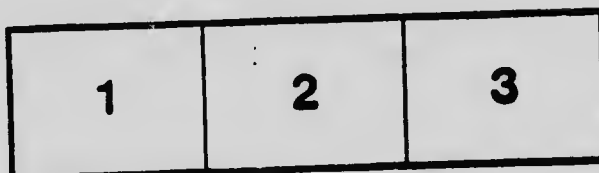
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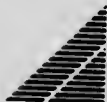
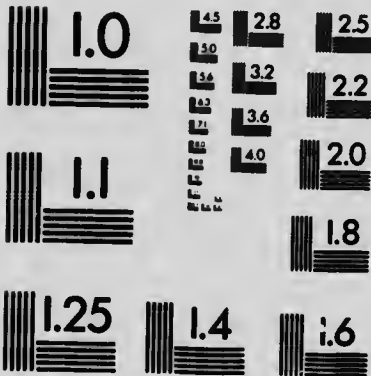
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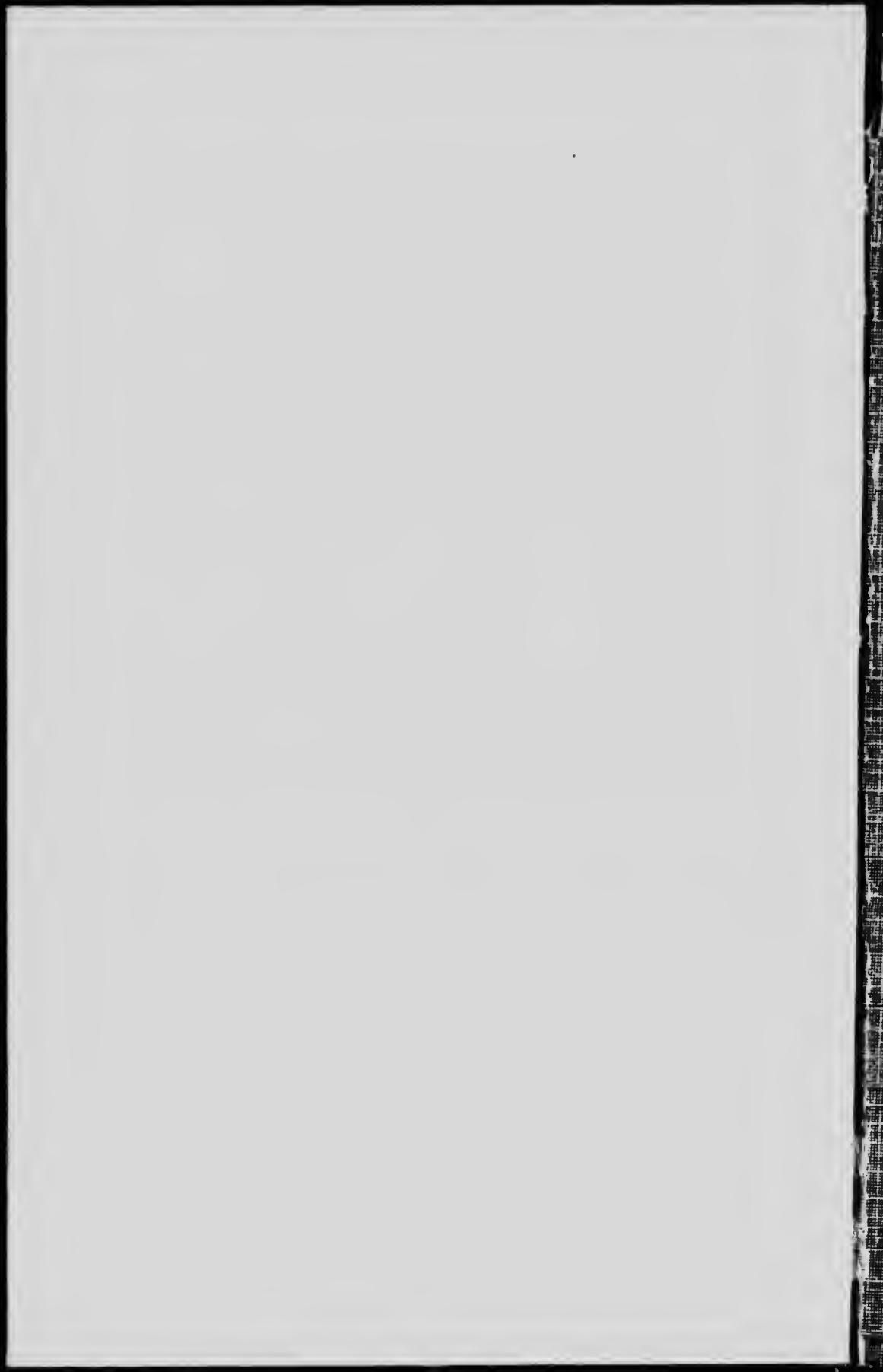
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# THE PULPWOOD INDUSTRY

BY  
WILLIAM H. HARRIS & EDWARD J. HARRIS

REPORT AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN PAPER AND PULP MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION  
Held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, June 10-12, 1922  
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1922

# The Pulpwood Industry.

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BY HERBERT M. PRICE.

The subject of pulpwood is one that has come to the front within the last ten years prominently from many points of view and has many collateral bearings and has, I believe, been instrumental in bringing the question of Forestry as practical politics before the public.

## DIMENSIONS OF WOOD CUT.

There is no doubt but that a smaller diameter of wood has been cut than is in the true interests of the pulp and paper mills to accept or the owner of private lands or limits to cut. Some twelve years since the diameter shipped was six inches and up while now four inches and up is accepted.

The actual quantity of wood is less in a cord of 4 inches and up than in 6 inches and up, but competition between buyers has brought about this lower minimum. It would be much in the interest of the owner of timber lands to make only 5 inches and up : he would get a better price for his wood, his lands would not be so depleted and depreciated, the jobber could afford to make it at a less price and the paper mill could afford to pay more for it.

## SORTS OF WOOD AND DIMENSIONS.

Practically there are three sorts of pulpwood : spruce, (including balsam or sapin) hemlock and poplar, but this paper will deal generally with spruce, as quantities of hemlock and poplar are so small and do not materially affect the question now under discussion and hemlock is cut primarily for its bark and not for pulpwood.

Pulpwood is divided into rough wood (wood with the bark on), peeled wood, hand shaved wood and rossed wood.

Rough wood is made generally in the winter in whatever lengths are most convenient, being cut down to four feet before being shipped to the United States and sometimes to two feet. If trees are cut after winter sets in, same can be hand peeled to advantage the following spring, as the sap will then run.

Peeled wood is peeled in the woods in June, July and August and mostly cut into four feet lengths and hauled out the following winter or driven the following spring.

Hand peeled wood is generally peeled with a drawknife the following spring and summer after being made rough in the woods and after being either hauled out or driven. The later in the summer it is so hand peeled the harder the work is.

Rossed wood is the rough wood machine peeled by a barker or rosser. The loss of wood in this case is greater than when it is hand shaved and may be estimated at from 20 to 30 p. c., according to the size and quality being peeled as, naturally, the smaller the diameter of the wood the greater the waste or loss.

Up to within the last two years the wood barker or rosser only barked sticks of wood not over two feet, but now the Moreau barker rosses four feet sticks.

### CONTENTS OF A CORD.

The number of pieces in a cord of course varies greatly according to the size of the wood cut, but from actual measurement a cord aver "ring 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter takes 174 pieces; 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " 122 pieces; 6 1-5" 100 pieces and 7 1-7" 82 pieces, showing the extra labor and handling in cutting small wood.

In shipping wood by rail it is found that a cord of wood peeled one summer and shipped the following winter or spring weighs about 3,000 lbs. while unbarked wood comes near 3,800 lbs. per cord.

### VALUES.

In speaking of values, of course, points of shipment and favorable rates of transportation by rail or water make the price, but I am taking points favorably situated in the



Quebec District as a basis. The values of spruce pulpwood have gone up greatly during the past ten years and especially within the last five. Rough wood that sold at \$2.50 a cord, 6" and up, in 1892 sold in 1904 at \$4.50 for 4" and up, but the demand for this wood has decreased, the mills preferring peeled or rossed, as they get apparently more for their money.

Peeled wood is sold from \$6 to \$6.50 a cord in conjunction with hand shaved.

Rossed wood has recently come into great demand, no doubt the mills having found it to their advantage to use it at the price they paid, say \$7 to \$7.25 per cord of 128 cubic feet cut into two feet lengths, four feet lengths not being in demand. The fires of 1903 in the Adirondacks and elsewhere in the United States, also in Canada, forced owners of stumpage so affected to utilize at once what wood was fit for rossing. This, no doubt, brought a surplus on the market.

Various percentages of balsam or sapin are shipped in with spruce pulpwood.

Stumpage on private lands well situated has practically doubled in the last five years and, consequently, the values of such lands have risen very greatly. Stumpage as high as \$10 an acre has been paid on favorable lots. Lands that 5 or 6 years ago had greatly depreciated by extensive logging operations were given a new value by the market demand for pulpwood.

### MEASUREMENT.

In the Quebec District pulpwood is generally bought French measure and shipped English measure, the French cord being 8 feet 6 in.  $\times$  4 feet 3"  $\times$  4 feet = 144 cubic feet, against English cord of 8 feet  $\times$  4 feet  $\times$  4 feet = 128 cubic feet. The short way to bring one measure into the other is to deduct 1-9 from French measure and add 1-8 to English measure.

### DISTANCES TRANSPORTED.

To show the distances transported and what an important part the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River

plays in the question of pulpwood, it may be mentioned that the Pattle Island Paper Co., of Fulton, N.Y., situated near Oswego, on Lake Ontario, draw the greater portion of their supply from the upper part of the Saguenay River at Ha! Ha! Bay wholly by water, a distance of nearly six hundred miles.

Pulpwood is also shipped from Escoumains, some distance below Tadousac.

### QUANTITIES CONSUMED.

It is estimated that the United States consume yearly about 2,500,000 cords of pulpwood, of which we ship them about 25 p.c.

During the past year the Adirondacks alone produced some 580,000 cords of pulpwood, equal to say 350,000,000 feet B. M. This cutting is practically at our own door and tells us that some day Canada will have much more to say as regards the supply, as prices of stumpage in the United States have gone to very high figures.

The Department of Customs at Ottawa inform me that the total quantity of pulpwood exported from Canada during the fiscal year ending July 1st, 1904, was 479,238 cords. These figures, in conjunction with the information I give, go to demonstrate that the United States looks to the Province of Quebec for a very large proportion of this 25 p.c.

There were 259,231 cords of pulpwood cut on Crown Lands in the Province of Quebec in the year ending June 30, 1903, of which 70,576 cords were exported from Canada. I understand from the Department that the amount cut for year ending June 30, 1904, was very similar to the foregoing year, but the returns are not yet published. Mr. J. E. A. Dubuc in his pamphlet of the present year on Pulpwood states that from 720,000 to 750 000 cords are cut yearly in the Province of Quebec, of which 300,000 are converted into pulp and paper for local consumption and export. These statements show the large proportion of pulpwood that is cut on private lands in the Province of Quebec. The estimated amount of pulpwood cut on Crown Lands in the Province of Ontario during the past year is 60,000 cords.

## UNSATISFACTORY MANNER OF SELLING TO THE UNITED STATES.

There is much to be done to put the pulpwood trade on a satisfactory basis as between the seller in Canada and the purchaser in the United States, as the custom is now for the seller in Canada to take mill measurement, or final measurement, in the United States, in spite of the fact that wood is generally sold f. o. b. car or boat in Canada. The Pulpwood Association has discouraged strongly any sales made deliverable at mill in the United States, believing that debt should be one collectable on this side of the line and that the United States mills should be responsible for changes in freight and also for any duty imposed by their Government, the Canadian shipper being responsible for any export duty imposed by Canada. There is often much difference in measurement of boats and cars between Canada and the United States and same must continue as long as the present system exists.

## DUTY ON PULPWOOD.

All pulpwood is admitted free into the United States at present, but about two years since the United States Government commenced collecting 20 p. c. duty on rossed wood, claiming under the Dingley Tariff that it was a manufactured article. The payment of duty was protested by interested parties and the case tried before the General Board of Appraisers in New York which decided that rossed pulpwood was free. The Government then ceased collecting but appealed and the case went before the Circuit Court in the District of Vermont, which Court affirmed the decision.

The Government again commenced collecting duty on rossed wood in July 1905 at 20 p. c. on the cord valued at \$7, or \$1.40 per cord and immediately afterwards lowered the valuation to \$5.50, or \$1.10 per cord and ceased collecting on 6th Nov. last in consequence of the decision of Circuit Court of Vermont in October last, but has again appealed and the case will go before the Circuit Court of Appeals. The strong probabilities are that the Government's contention will be set aside. The Government has, however, not yet made a refund of duty collected,

## PROVINCE OF QUEBEC PULPWOOD ASSOCIATION.

An Association called the "Province of Quebec Pulpwood Association", of which I have the honour to be President, was formed in 1902 and I think well to quote from its constitution the reasons for its formation:—

"The object of the Association shall be to promote the interests and conserve the rights of those engaged in the pulpwood business or in the manufacture and preparation of pulpwood, to hold meetings of the members for the consideration and discussion of questions affecting those interests and, by union and co-operation, to build up and foster the pulpwood business.

To inaugurate a uniform system of measuring and selling pulpwood to Canadian and American Pulp and Paper mills.

To assist in encouraging shippers to export only a good class of pulpwood so as to maintain a good name for pulpwood shipped from the Province of Quebec.

To encourage the strict observance of contracts between producers of the wood, shippers of same and the mills in Canada and the United States who consume it.

To look after the facilities for shipment of wood given by Railroads and water transportation companies.

To foster good-will between the shipper and the consumer and to be the means of removing differences between them."

The Association has, I believe, done and is doing good work on the above lines.

## EXPORT DUTY.

The question of an export duty being imposed by Canada on pulpwood has been much discussed, but I feel that the safest course, and the wisest one, is to let things remain as they are, for I believe this policy conduces to the interests of the many. We cannot afford to lose an export wood trade of \$3,000,000 a year and wait for possibly many years before a home market is found. This country's resources are so immense in pulpwood that we can afford for some time yet to export the raw material and until we are able to find capital to build up mills to manufacture and

export the product ; besides, the building of pulp mills in Canada, apart from paper mills, is not particularly encouraging at present.

When we consider the enormous and almost unlimited supplies of pulpwood derivable from the North Shore of the St. Lawrence River alone, we can safely feel that this question may be left where it is for the present. New supplies are constantly coming into sight and I may mention the Island of Anticosti as one of these and which will probably prove itself to be a shipper of pulpwood and pulp on a large scale in the near future. The country between Quebec and Hamilton Inlet, a distance of over 750 miles in a straight line, is a fair reserve for the future. We are not doing posterity a wrong as regards this question of an export duty by not agitating it now. Hon. Mr. Parent, when Premier and Minister of Crown Lands of the Province of Quebec, in his speech on the pulpwood question in April 1903 stated that there were 62,592 square miles of Crown Lands under license and 100,000 square miles of absolute forest not yet under license, making 162,600 square miles of Crown timber lands amounting to 104,000,000 acres. Since that date the mileage under license has increased to over 67,000 square miles.

Besides the above there were some 20,000,000 acres of seigneuries and patented lots, the large proportion by far being timbered.

The immense quantities of pulpwood in the Provinces of Ontario, New-Brunswick and Nova-Scotia supplement those of the Province of Quebec.

The depreciation in value of timber lands in the event of an export duty would be very considerable, as the duty, in order to meet the views of its advocates, would have to be made heavy enough to make export prohibitory. It would also stop for an indefinite time the purchase by Americans and others of our unsold timber lands and would certainly decrease the resources of the Provincial Governments owning same.

Further sales of Government timber lands could not be made to advantage and it would inflict a heavy blow on all spruce limits now under license, except those owned by pulp or paper mills. Thousands of square miles of timber lands would lie unworked for years with consequent loss in settlement and population.

The question of retaliation by the United States Government I do not discuss, but it is a factor in the case, although I feel strongly that we must draw the line somewhere as regards concessions. A policy of reciprocity, if obtainable, would be preferable to inaugurating a tariff war.

Pulpwood has been the means of saving waste in the woods where made in connection with logging operations.

A certain portion, and by no means a small one, of our northern spruce producing country cannot be developed to advantage by the building of pulp and paper mills, but the pulpwood on same can be shipped to very great advantage.

Every settler is more or less interested in the pulpwood trade and it has helped largely the clearing and settling of land.

The greatness of our water powers will be a telling factor in the future in solving this question of export duty.

### SHIPMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

The shipment of pulpwood to other countries than the United States is to-day practically barred by transportation charges, as Europe is supplied to a great extent by Scandinavia on account of its proximity.

### LAWS OF THE PROVINCES.

The Province of British Columbia has now no law in force regarding timber cut as pulpwood, as they repealed the law of 1901 which charged a rental of not more than two cents per acre and royalty of not over twenty-five cents per cord.

In New Brunswick, if pulpwood is cut on Crown Lands, it is subject to the dues of merchantable lumber, which for spruce are \$1.25 per thousand superficial feet and no log to be cut that will not make a log 18 feet long  $\times$  10 inches at the small end.

The Province of Nova Scotia issues twenty year leases of timber lands for pulpwood purposes at \$1 per acre, authorizing the lessee to cut timber of not less than five inches in diameter. They, however, issue special leases in case of erection of pulp mills, etc.

The Province of Quebec charges a stumpage of 65 cents on pulpwood per cord of 128 cubic feet, equal to 600 feet B.M., with a reduction of 25 cents per cord on timber manufactured into pulp or paper in the Dominion of Canada and in connection with this rebate the United States Government imposed a countervailing duty of 25 cents a ton of 2,240 lbs. on all pulp made from wood cut on Crown Lands in the Province of Quebec. Pulp made in Ontario from wood cut on Crown Lands in the Province of Quebec was also subject to this countervailing duty. This stumpage of 65 cents per cord is equal to 91 cents per 1,000 feet.

The Government of the Province of Ontario cover the cutting of pulpwood to a great extent by arrangement between the Province and parties acquiring areas, each individual case being dealt with according to circumstances, but generally the dues, as fixed on the 20th March, 1900, are forty cents a cord. A law was passed on January 13, 1900, prohibiting the export of pulpwood from the Province of Ontario in an unmanufactured state. The lease for 21 years with the Rainy Lake Pulp & Paper Co. calls for 40 cents a cord for spruce, nothing to be cut under six inches.

### INCREASE IN PULPWOOD TRADE.

The demand for pulpwood must increase rapidly in the future as it has in the past few years, as the number of articles made from pulp is daily increasing and the spread of education means more pulpwood in consequence of the dependence of the paper makers on the article. It is well to remember that what is disastrous to many trades is generally beneficial to pulpwood, viz: War, as past experience has shewn the very great demand for paper that it produces.

The uses of paper are also becoming manifold and so the circle is constantly enlarging. He would be a rash man who would undertake to limit the uses paper may be put to in the not distant future.

### FOREST FIRES.

This, has been dealt with by Dr. Robert Bell, but I think that the penalties should be more severe where fires in the woods are started by settlers.

## SUGGESTIONS RE FUTURE POLICY.

Although the pulpwood industry is regarded as inimical to forest culture, it must inevitably increase year by year and it is with this trade that the owners of timber lands, whether Government or individuals, have to deal, as the denudation of the country will be affected by this trade in a greater ratio than by logging. It is well to bear in mind how much owners of private lands are interested in this question and that we have not to deal with Governments alone.

The inroads pulpwood will make on our timber reserves will increase in an unknown ratio and, if conducted in a judicious way, will tend to the perpetuating of the trade in the same way the judicious logging of spruce has done. Of course, much of the country which is pulpwood-producing is not a desirable logging territory and consequently, the Government of the Province of Quebec permit cutting of black spruce of 7 inches at the stump.

The reproductive qualities of spruce will act forcibly as a saving clause against annihilation of our spruce forests, and this alone, in my opinion, makes the forest wealth of the Province of Quebec greater than that of our sister Province Ontario, and of a far more enduring character.

I believe the interest of this country is to discourage by legislation, or otherwise, the cutting of trees for pulpwood under 7 inches in diameter at the stump and the shipping of pulpwood under 5 inches in diameter.

Increasing value of stumpage has a tendency to make people more conservative with their timber lands, as it pays to be so and the teachings of the Forestry Conventions and Associations will be useless if they do not coincide with what the State and the individuals forming that State consider to be their interests.

Pulpwood affects all our interests directly or indirectly; it makes the article of paper which is used to spread the gospel this Convention is preaching.

If this Convention is the forerunner of a policy, as regards pulpwood, producing the best financial results with a minimum of destruction, it will have justified its being.



