

By George McManus

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MANNING SPOKE INTERESTINGLY ABOUT TIMBER

Time Has Come, He Declares to Rotary Club, When Future Must Be Seriously Considered

U. S. EXAMPLE

In Few Years That Country Has Lessened Production Alarmingly

"The time has come when we must seriously consider the timber situation in this country and take heed of the warning signs which point to trouble ahead," declared E. C. Manning, provincial government district forester, in addressing the Rotary Club at the weekly luncheon held yesterday afternoon in the St. Regis Cafe. Mr. Manning's subject was "The Depletion of Old-Timber Resources and the Remedy," and it was listened to with interested attention and appreciation by the members assembled. President T. H. Johnson presided.

In opening his address Mr. Manning said that the people did not regard seriously enough the value to this country of the timber resources. Our forefathers, when they came to Canada found timber almost everywhere and in their struggle to clear land and make a living for themselves regarded the trees as their greatest enemy. The time had come when the situation must be seriously considered.

U. S. Situation

"I will first of all discuss the history of lumber production in the United States, speaking more of the American situation because reliable figures of that country are easier to obtain and their position is somewhat analogous to ours. Seventy-five years ago and somewhat more recently lumber production centered in the New England states. Then the white pine forests of the Lake states were invaded. In 1880 when the total annual cut was about eighteen billion feet, New England was still furnishing one quarter of the nation's cut while the Lake states were furnishing 35 percent. The southern pineries were only supplying 20 per cent, and the Pacific coast 5 per cent. In 1900 the nations yearly cut had risen to thirty-five billion board feet, having doubled in twenty years. The north-eastern states produced 16 per cent, the Lake states 28 per cent, the south 41 per cent, and the Pacific coast 10 per cent. Ten years later the northeastern states and Lake states each produced only about 12 per cent of the total cut. The cut in the southern states was at its height, being 54 per cent of the total and the Pacific coast had risen to 18 per cent. The figures for the year 1918 show a distribution of 7 per cent to the north-eastern states, 10 per cent to the Lake states, 49 per cent to the south and 34 per cent to the Pacific coast.

What are the results in these individual areas? The New England states now import fully one-third of the lumber used; the white pine stands of the Lake states are estimated to have dropped from their original 350 billion feet to about 8 billion, and the southern pineries are on the decline.

Southern White Pine

"I want to speak particularly of the southern pine region. For years its pines have been the chief competitor of our Douglas fir in the east. In fact, it is only recently that the buying public

have begun to realize that our fir is its equal if not its superior. Owing to our excessive freight rates and haulage distances our spruce and fir are at a disadvantage, the pine being often delivered in the eastern states at a total cost not greatly exceeding our haulage cost alone. The Chief Forester of the United States, several years ago, estimated that five thousand saw mills in the southern United States would discontinue operations within the next three years owing to the lack of supply. Another authority states that of two thousand pine mills which come under review only four of these had timber supplies which would last them over twenty years. This comparative exhaustion of the timber supplies must naturally be affecting American industries.

Pulp Industry

"As late as 1909 the United States produced its entire newsprint supply; now it imports two-thirds of it from Canada.

The pulp and paper industry became centralized in the north-eastern and lake states and at present 75 percent of the paper mills are located in these states. Owing to heavy investments of capital they cannot easily transfer to other locations. This has resulted in a rail and water transport of raw material some 500 miles in some cases. Some of these mills paid, as freight alone, up to \$16 per cord in 1919 for pulp wood obtained from Ontario and Quebec. The results of this timber shortage in certain districts became so evident that the public of the United States through their Senate demanded an enquiry into the situation. The enquiry into this subject was the most comprehensive ever conducted in the States and the results were astounding.

"Three-fifths of the original timber of the United States is gone and they are using timber now four times as fast as they are growing it. One half of the remaining timber is situated in the three Pacific states. One-tenth of the original timber area in the States has been so severely cut over and burned that it has become an unproductive waste. The report further states that in the Lake district, by 1930, consumption will exceed production by 50 per cent, and that the south may produce barely enough for its own needs. Incidentally this will mean great business for the coast states and for British Columbia.

Our Own Country.

"Now let us turn to our country. On account of being younger and less settled, forest devastation has not progressed so far though the situation in the States is already increasing our cut. The large and more accessible bodies of timber in the Eastern provinces are being rapidly cut out and the magnificent white pine stands are fast disappearing. The fact that they are already importing high grade B. C. lumber and paying \$25 to \$30 per thousand board feet freight rate, tells its own story. The pulp and lumber companies in the east are already cutting over their holdings a second and third time. Originally they culled out the large spruce and white pine, now they are also taking the balsam and hemlock down to a small size. Thousands of cords of pulp wood are being taken out, composed of sticks one and a half to five inches in diameter, which we in this country would call toothpicks. One evidence of this depletion of the timber resources in the east may be seen in the fact that stumpage prices are three to five times as much as in the west. So much for the human demands on our timber supplies.

"Now we come to the tremendous fire losses occurring every year, when millions of feet of merchantable timber go up in smoke. The toll from insects is also very heavy. Some years ago the tamarack saw fly almost cleaned the tamarack out of the eastern provinces. The ravages of the spruce bug worm have been still worse.

The Real Situation.

"We in the west are inclined to feel that, though there may be a little shortage in the East, our unlimited supply of timber will protect us for many years. Now let me tell you how the foresters view the situation and what our own Forestry department is doing to preserve the great timber resources of this province. We regard timber as a crop needing care and protection, not as a mine which is



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FOR SALE—3188 salmon trawler, 7 1/2 h.p., heavy duty Vulcan engine, Apple dynamo and storage battery, complete, switchboard. This is a good outfit. Price \$850. Engine worth the money. Also 24x7 salmon trawler, 4 h.p. Regal. Price \$375.00. Boat and engine in first class condition. This outfit is well worth the price. Northern Exchange, 145 Second Avenue, Phone 610.

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FOR SALE—Sixty acres on creek 1 1/2 miles from Kitwanga station, \$12 per acre. Apply P. O. Box 633, Prince Rupert, B. C. 108

FOR SALE—Rooming house, with twenty-five rooms completely furnished. Good lease, \$1,600. McCaffery & Gibbons, Ltd. If

FOR SALE—Slightly used piano, \$350 cash. Teetzel's Stationery and Candy Store, 144 Third Avenue. If

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to be exploited and left. Waste in logging operations, in so far as is consistent, should be eliminated for we are using timber which has taken from 100 to 300 years to grow. Land suitable for agriculture should be used for agriculture but the remaining millions of acres in this country which will grow nothing but timber should be put to use of growing timber. We should remember that barren lands pay no taxes and support no payroll.

Fire Protection.

"Perhaps the main function of our branch is the protection of forests from fire. This is carried on directly by the organization of our field staff into a fire fighting force and indirectly by a public educational campaign.

"A closed season for fire, has been established in the summer. There is a network of patrol in the dangerous districts by launch, motor car, railway speeder, the efficiency of which has been greatly increased by look-out points and field telephones. Wireless telephones have also been put on a number of

(Continued on Page 6)

FOR SALE—48 H.P. Winton-Six automobile engine, complete with Bosch magneto, Paragon reverse gear, Universal compressor, Columbia propeller, brass tail shaft and stern bearing. All in good shape. Suitable for speedboat. C. L. Heindel, Seal Cove. 110

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