

The province of Ontario provides material under similar conditions, and distributes to woodlot owners at least 7,000,000 trees annually, from its five nurseries. As many more are being provided for the creation of county forests, demonstration forests and plantations on denuded Crown lands. To encourage the establishment of communal forests by towns and other municipalities, the Provincial Government undertakes to plant free of charge any area purchased by the municipality for this purpose. The Government also assists counties which purchase areas of not less than 1,000 acres of land for forest purposes. As a result of these inducements there are at present scattered throughout the province 50 communal forests owned by municipalities and eight of the larger county forests. Farm land used for forestry purposes, while so used, is exempt from taxation up to 10 p.c. of the total farm area but not exceeding a total of 20 acres.

In Quebec, a forest nursery at Berthierville serves as a demonstration station for the School of Forestry and as a location for the forest ranger school. It provides trees for sale and distribution in the province, comprising seedlings and transplants for forest planting, and larger trees for ornamental purposes. The capacity of the nursery has been raised to 10,000,000 trees. Provision is made by legislation for the creation of communal forests, and there are now 74 of these containing 584,798 acres.

Section 6.—Forest Utilization.¹

Historical.—The forest has always played a large part in the life of the pioneer in Eastern Canada, providing him with building material and fuel but opposing his agricultural efforts. The material removed in clearing the first fields was usually more than sufficient for his needs, and in many cases what would now be valuable timber was piled and burned by the early settler. Local trade in lumber began in New France shortly after 1650. The first attempts at forest conservation took the form of setting aside areas of timber for the use of the navy, and the first exports were of shipbuilding material and spars. Sawmills were established along the St. Lawrence before the close of the seventeenth century. While there was no recorded transatlantic trade in forest products other than naval supplies, shipments of lumber and staves were made to the French West Indies during the French *régime*. Shipbuilding became an important local industry and gave rise to considerable forest exploitation.

Transatlantic trade began to develop after the Conquest, stimulated by bounties and tariff privileges granted with the object of reducing England's dependence on Baltic supplies, especially in connection with naval material. This trade, however, did not develop satisfactorily until the beginning of the nineteenth century, when Napoleon succeeded in interfering seriously with imports of wood into England from the Baltic. The export of timber from Canada increased enormously, and the square timber trade in white pine and oak spread from the St. Lawrence and Richelieu valleys to lake Champlain and Upper Canada and especially into the Ottawa valley. This trade reached its height in the '60's and has steadily declined since that date.

Sawmilling on a large scale followed the square timber trade and the establishment of small custom mills followed in the wake of the settler. The building of wooden ships in the St. Lawrence valley and the Maritime Provinces developed

¹ An article on "The History of the Canadian Lumber Trade", by A. R. M. Lower, M.A., appears at pp. 318-323 of the 1925 edition of the Canada Year Book.