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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE PULPWOOD RESOURCES OF CANADA

A ROYAL commission to investigate Canada's pulpwood resources and the advisability of prohibiting the export of this product has been appointed by the Canadian Government. The commission is headed by Joseph Picard, Quebec, a manufacturer and business man, and includes in its personnel two lawyers, one lumberman and one contractor. Instructions have been issued to the commission to inquire into the report upon the forest resources, with particular regard to the extent in each province of woods of various kinds available for the manufacture of pulp. Other directions to the commission follow:

1. To inquire into the quantity of pulp available, owned by the provincial governments and subject under provincial laws and regulations to restrictions requiring the partial or total manufacture of such wood in Canada.
2. To inquire into the quantity of wood so available on lands owned by the Canadian Government and subject under federal laws and regulations to restrictions requiring partial or total manufacture in Canada.
3. The quantity of wood on other lands and the conditions under which such lands are held, whether by ownership or lease, whether by corporations or individuals, whether by citizens of Canada or citizens of other countries.
4. The quantity of pulpwood produced in each province during the past ten years, showing the portion used in Canada and the portion exported.
5. To investigate the question of the restriction of the export of pulpwood from Canada, and any other matter touching upon the production, manufacture or sale of pulpwood essential to a comprehensive consideration of the question of the restriction of export.

The commission is to make recommendations that may be deemed expedient for the better conservation of the supply of pulpwood for present and future use. The pulpwood investigation was promised at the last session of Parliament, when the Government was given power to prohibit the export of pulpwood at that time. The Minister of Finance promised that the Government would not exercise its authority in this respect until after a searching review of the whole situation.

Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering states that the situation brought about by the proposed embargo "has given rise to much speculation as to Canada's ability to continue supplying the United States with pulpwood. It is estimated that Canada has 250,000,000 acres of forest growth of merchantable size, and 600,000,000 forested acres of young timber suitable for pulpwood. It is assumed that the 600,000,000 forested acres of young timber would yield 1,250,000,000 cords of pulpwood. The present consumption is 4,000,000 cords per annum. On that basis the supply would last for over 300 years, without allowing for from two to three per cent. of regrowth; but at that point the authorities differ. It is stoutly maintained by some experts that Canada has not as much pulpwood in sight as is supposed, and that on the basis of consumption during the past twenty years in particular, the resources would be exhausted in 60 years, or reduced to a volume which would mean exceedingly high cost for pulp."

THE FOSSIL FIELD IN MONGOLIA

THE Peking correspondent of the *London Times* writes that the researches of Mr. Roy Chapman Andrews, who for some years has been exploring the less-known regions of China and adjacent territory in the interest of the Natural History Museum of New York, are likely to add considerably to scientific understanding of prehistoric times.

Mr. Andrews concludes that Mongolia is one of the greatest fossil fields in the world, and his discoveries in this respect go far to confirm the theory that Central Asia was the center of the dispersal of the mammalian life of Europe and America. He says that the existence of a land connection between Asia and North America has been unquestionably established.

With reference to the work of the Third Asiatic Expedition under his leadership, now busy in the Gobi Desert at a point about four hundred miles northwest of Peking, Mr. Andrews says:

The first month of the expedition's work is far beyond our hopes. Where we expected only fragments we have discovered an immense deposit of large and small dinosaur bones. It will require many months to exhaust this region, but we have removed two partially complete skeletons and parts of several others. This includes herbivorous dinosaurs 30 feet long of the *iguanodon* type and smaller carnivorous species. These bones are at least five million years old, but beautifully preserved. They probably are related to European types and, with our former work, indicate that Central Asia is the ancestral home of the dinosaurs, which migrated to Europe and America.

The expedition is now divided into two parts. One is working in the dinosaur beds and the other exploring later geological strata. The second group, camped 24