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30 1/2 Third Avenue - Timmins**SOME STARTLING FACTS
ABOUT CANADA'S FORESTS**Mr. Frank J. D. Barnjum Says Raw
Material for Wood-Using
Industries in Serious
Condition.

There have been so many recent references in these columns to the importance of the lumber and pulp industry to the North Land that perhaps a reference to the forest wealth of Canada from another angle may be of more than passing interest. The usual reference to the great resources of Canada in pulpwood and timber needs to be taken with a warning. There are enormous forest resources in Canada, but the conditions surrounding their growth and marketing assuredly need much more thoughtful consideration. It is this feature of the case that Mr. Frank J. D. Barnjum, the forest expert of Nova Scotia, takes up in a recent issue of The Pulp & Paper Magazine. Mr. Barnjum says: "The wood resources of Canada have been so grossly exaggerated that very few are aware how meagre our supply of available wood really is. I have spent a large portion of the past few years in a personal investigation of the Canadian situation, the results of which are so alarming that I have refrained from publishing my findings. The theory of an annual growth that has been indulged in so freely in the past has simply become a popular delusion. There is, of course, a gross growth and a net growth, but to offset this the annual wastage by fire, wind, insects and fungi, taking the country as a whole, far over-runs the gross growth. Consequently, we are simply consuming our capital year after year. In some of the wild estimates of our supply of standing timber made in the past, they have simply taken the map of Canada, determined the number of square miles and arbitrarily figured so many cords per acre. Now, as logging by aeroplane has not been perfected as yet, there are only two ways you can get out wood, namely, by river and railroad. About all the more important rivers of Canada have been logged on and driven, from the very earliest days. Many of them have been practically stripped or cut off while others are being operated pretty well back to their headwaters, so far remote that it takes two years or more to drive logs to the mills. In the case of the railroad the condition is pretty much the same, with the exception of possibly the Transcontinental, but inasmuch as this road was built beyond the height of land, there is very little wood available north of this road, as the rivers all drain away from it towards Hudson Bay. This leaves only the territory that lies south of the railroad, but as sawmills are springing up along this line like mushrooms over night, and as fire is taking a heavy toll in this section, the paper mills will derive only a comparatively small supply from this source. Every time a railroad is built in a wooded country, more wood is burned up than is hauled out."

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An embargo or export duty on raw material taken from fee lands; of the annual purchase of fee land wood by a combination of all the Canadian pulp and paper mills.

"I will personally subscribe ten thousand dollars," says Mr. Barnjum, "to the Canadian Forestry Association, if each of the other pulp and paper mills in Canada will subscribe a like amount, to be used in carrying out the work outlined above, under the direction of an Executive Committee to be appointed by the subscribers to the Fund. This will give us a fund worthy of the name and will enable to do some real work."

Mr. Barnjum has been largely interested for the past twenty years in the paper and pulp industries of Nova Scotia, and he has made a life-long study of conditions and prospects. He has presented a strong case, and while he may be wrong, perhaps, in some details, his basic ideas can hardly be controverted. It is an odd fact that in all matters relating to Canada's forest wealth Governments should lag so far behind individuals in the matter of seeing the needs and seeking remedies. Mr. Barnjum was left to spend his own time and money to place a very serious situation fairly before the public. He was left to seek remedies and suggest alternatives. In the same way the Abitibi Power & Paper Co. have been left, at their own expense, to plan a most ambitious programme of reforestation. So it goes! The Governments are asleep. The new Ontario Government, if not under the usual governmental spell of indifference and inaction, should take up at once in the most thorough fashion the whole question of the forest wealth of this Province. Unless something seriously is attempted the Province will lose in the impairment of its resources. The Ontario Government will be able to receive very valuable information and assistance from the individuals and private corporations that have been studying the question, at their own expense, for several years past. It certainly seems to be "up to the Government" now.

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