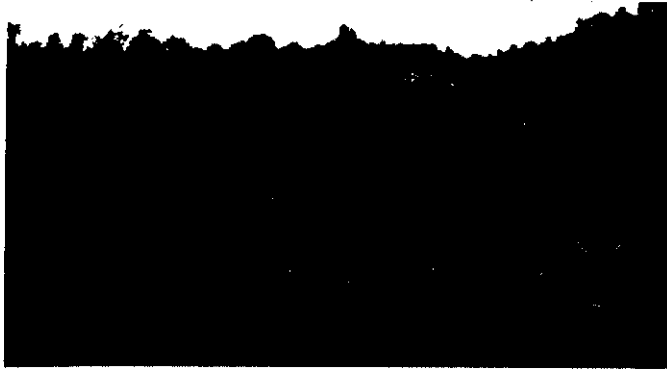


is almost equally certain that much of the existing supply will be destroyed by fire. "Of all the timber now left standing in America to represent our entire future supply, the lumberman will use

"Will there be a timber famine?" asks Mr. J. H. Young in a recent issue of the "World's Work" (Eng. ed.), and his answer to this momentous question opens in the following ominous terms:—

upon our wood supply is bound to be seriously imperilled in the future." This warning is directed more particularly to the United Kingdom, but unfortunately it applies at least as emphatically to nearly every other country in the world. In one sense it is quite unnecessary to pile up huge masses of statistics to illustrate what must be a sufficiently obvious truth. For it is self-evident that the forest resources of the world are not inexhaustible, and that if they are continually being cut

that appeared recently in the Melbourne "Age." "The world's timber supplies are rapidly diminishing, and in almost every country the circumstance is causing an apprehension bordering on consternation, for the demand for timber all the world over is steadily and speedily augmenting. It was estimated not long ago by an Afforestation Committee in Britain that if the present rate of consumption is maintained the timber supplies of Europe and America will be



A DEFORESTED HILLSIDE.

The rain water runs off as fast as it falls, carrying much of the soil with it.

less than one-half. The other half will never be taken out of the woods at all. Three-fourths of that half may never be cut, but may be set on fire and burned

Facts and Figures.

"The alarming rate at which the world's supply of timber is being depleted is causing the gravest anxiety to



HOW NOT TO CUT DOWN BUSH.

as it stands." There are about 450,000,000 acres of commercial timber left in the United States, bearing about 2,000,000,000,000 feet of marketable woods. But experts say that the yellow pine will last hardly 15 years at the present rate of consumption, and that the Douglas fir or Oregon pine will not stand more than 25 to 30 years of the present demand. In the whole United States more than 100,000 acres of timber are cut over every working day; and taking into account the losses occasioned by fire, it is evident that unless something is done to retard the rate of consumption or to replenish the supply, America's stock of timber is rapidly nearing the point of absolute annihilation.

The Coming Timber Famine.

Very few people have any conception of the enormous demands being constantly made upon the world's available stock of timber, the extent to which the existing supplies are being annually diminished, and the extraordinarily serious consequences that must ensue if nothing is done in the near future to grapple with the emergency thus created. It is generally known in New Zealand that our kauri is within measurable distance of extinction, and that many of our most valuable indigenous trees cannot long hold out against the constantly increasing demand. But even the people most directly interested in our sawmills or in the importation of Oregon pine do not seem to realise that the shortage in our timber output is merely a single phase of a widespread falling off in the world's supply of timber, and that in no long period of time we will be unable to replenish our stock by importations from other countries except at a ruinous cost.

those who are interested in afforestation, and many authorities on timber-growing affirm that unless the State undertakes some scheme of silviculture, the very existence of the many industries dependent



WHERE THE OREGON PINE GROWS.

down without being replaced, the day must come sooner or later when the demand for timber will no longer find means to satisfy itself. This is, of course, a mere truism, but like many other truisms it is not sufficiently appreciated by people in general, and this must be my excuse for labouring a point that certainly needs very little corroborative testimony. However, it may help to drive the argument home if I add here a few figures bearing on this question of the diminution of the world's timber stock, quoted from an interesting article

exhausted in another twenty years. Britain annually imports 5,000,000,000 superficial feet of timber, and her consumption, according to the latest available returns, increased in 1906 by 633,000,000 feet. Germany has a well-organised Forest Department, and one-fourth of her area is under forest; nevertheless she imports nearly 3,000,000,000 superficial feet per year. France has one-fifth of her area under forest, and she employs 5000 officers in the work

Continued on page 42.



THE PATH OF THE DESTROYER—ROAD MAKING IN THE BUSH.