

**REASON FOR FORESTRY AND GROWING IMPORTANCE**

(Continued from page 1.)

light conditions. The functions of every part of the tree must be familiar to him. Before he can tell whether his forest is growing at its best, he must have a knowledge of its growth under varying conditions, gained through measurements requiring algebra, solid geometry, and surveying, and these measurements must be related to the soil and light conditions under which the forest is growing. The growth may be materially affected by fungi and insects; these too are studied.

When the timber is ready to cut the forester must indicate the method to be followed, always keeping in mind that another forest is to be grown on this same area, only a much better one than the present; and also keeping in mind that he will not live long enough to see the new forest logged, and that his mistakes will be a living monument to him. In order to determine the method of working his forest he must consider many things. A forest will deteriorate after it reaches a certain age; he must find that age. Here he deals with arithmetic and geometric progressions, compound interest, and logarithms; and handles decades and twenty year periods more freely than another person would consider individual years.

When the logging is under way the forester assumes a quite different role. He must understand the methods of logging, and he is still better equipped if he has had the practice. He must know how the work is done in the woods, how the logs are taken out, how they are transported to the mill; and should have a fair idea of the costs of all the operations. Besides, he should know how that method is going to affect the future of his woods. He should know the laws governing contracts, land sales and fire protection. The methods and laws he studies in college, and supplements that with work in the woods during the summer vacation.

The line of work I have just indicated, from gathering the seed, through the nursery to harvesting the

mature crop, is now in operation in the United States forest service, in some of the state forestry departments, and to a small extent, in the methods of a few large lumber and railway companies. Some forests are managed for their beneficial effects on stream flow where irrigation and water supply are of first importance. Here again different problems confront the forester. There are several other, perhaps indirect, lines in which the forester is vitally interested, among which are, the manufacture of wood into useful articles, preservative treatment of wood to prolong the usefulness of timber; wood pulp, for most of our paper is made from wood; turpentine industries, and wood distillation.

The first, that of making wagons, lead pencils, carriages, spools, houses, barrels, boats, furniture, tooth picks, boxes, farm implements, coffins, and so on, opens a field for the forester who has a good engineering foundation, or the engineer with a good forestry foundation, the latter consisting of a thorough knowledge of the structure and all of the properties of all the different woods now on the market, about fifty.

In the preservative business a knowledge of wood structure of fungi, and of the growth of the tree, combined with some engineering is needed. This, and the other lines mentioned, paper pulp, wood distillation, turpentine work, are all established industries and are ready for especially trained men to improve their methods. The government is helping in that direction, now, to a marked extent.

It requires about five years of college work to give the forester a proper foundation for his work and when those five years have passed he goes into a little town or into the woods or into a city, just as an engineer or a doctor; he makes a fair living but rarely gets rich, just as an engineer or a doctor; his work, he starts but does not see the finish, unlike the engineer; his success depends to a wonderfully large extent upon his common-sense, just as in the case of the engineer, the lawyer and the doctor.



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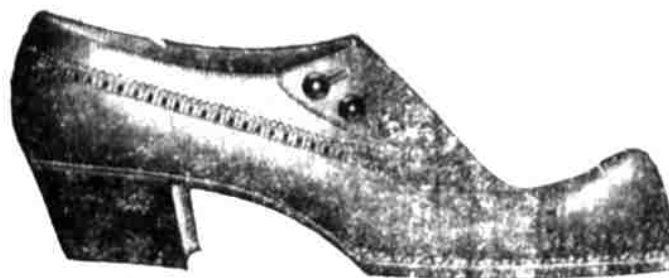
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