



Our Forestry Problem



CUT AND BURNED-OVER LAND

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN.

THE center of the lumber industry, within the lifetime of many persons now living, has moved from New England, to Pennsylvania, to the Lake states, to the Gulf states. The Southern Pine association now reports that within eight years 3,000 big sawmills will be junked and that the output will be reduced 50 per cent. That leaves us the virgin forests of the Pacific coast. Already the Pacific coast lumber, with a 2,000 or 3,000 mile haul, is to be found in the larger cities of the East. So the lumber industry has made its last jump. The United States Bureau of Corporations gives us sixty years to use up all the log lumber at the present rate of consumption.

When the Pacific coast lumber begins to run short, we can import lumber or we can do without it. If we don't like either of these alternatives, we can grow some more timber and pulp wood and coeprage and box stuff and trees to yield turpentine and resin and tannic and acetic acid and wood alcohol and airplane propellers and lead pencils and clothes pins and ax handles and such things—which come from the forests and nowhere else.

Whenever we get ready we can grow all the timber we want. Growing timber is a simple affair—if we go at it right.

We can put it another way and say that originally there were 800,000,000 acres of virgin forests in the United States. There are now only 200,000,000 acres, or 25 per cent of this, left. The 600,000,000 acres that are gone were depleted in the last seventy years.

Unless something is done about it, the United States will some time be a treeless land—its vast original forests laid low; those of its industries which depend upon timber for their existence, crippled or broken.

There are healthy signs that a good many people are of the opinion that something should be done about it. And one of the things to be done about it would seem to be a practical and comprehensive policy of reforestation. All interests seem to agree on the necessity of reforestation.

There are now two reforestation bills before congress. One of these is the Capper bill and the other is the Snell bill. The former aims at federal encouragement of state action. The latter provides federal regulation of forestry in the states and proposes for the next five years to increase the government's appropriation for forestry to \$10,000,000 a year.

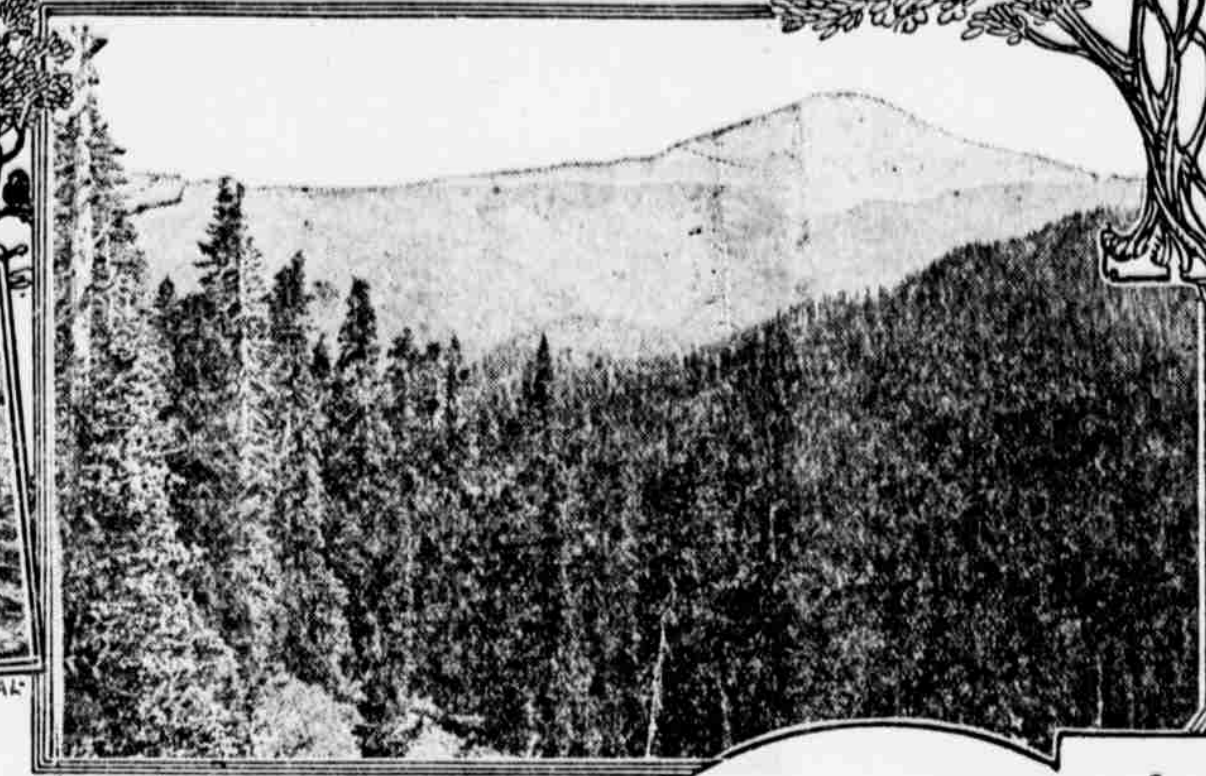
Another indication of the general feeling that something should be done about it is the hearings held in various parts of the country by a "national forestry policy committee" appointed by the United States Chamber of Commerce. This committee began operations in New York. It then went in succession to Chicago, Minneapolis, Spokane, Seattle, Portland and San Francisco.

David L. Goodwillie, a Chicago box manufacturer, is chairman. The other members of the committee are Charles S. Keith, president Central Coal & Coke company, Kansas City, Mo.; F. C. Knapp, president Peninsular Lumber company, Portland, Oregon; George L. Curtis, Curtis Companies, Inc., Clinton, Iowa; John Fletcher, vice-president Fort Dearborn National bank, Chicago, Ill.; Charles F. Quincy, president Q. and C. company, New York city; Dr. Henry S. Drinker, Merion Station, Pa.; Dr. Hugh P. Baker, secretary and treasurer American Paper & Pulp association, New York city; Harvey N. Shepard, attorney, Boston, Mass.; Julius H. Browne, vice-president Pacific Lumber company, New York city; Dr. W. B. Heinemann, president B. Heinemann Lumber company, Wausau, Wis.; W. DuB. Brookings, secretary of the committee, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, D. C.

This committee has gone into the subject in a broad way, seeking to get every viewpoint before making a report on which it is hoped a policy can be formulated. The chairman appointed several subcommittees of the original committee to deal with specific subjects coming under the general heading of forestry. Some of these subjects are government regulation, private holdings, individual versus public right, fire protection and expenditures, acquisition of land, national forest survey, taxes and taxation, utilization of wood and forest conservation, reforestation and national forests.

"As an example of how serious a problem our forestry problem is, let me point to the well known fact that in seven years 50 per cent of the sawmills of the South will be out of business," says Mr. Goodwillie. "What this means is better realized when we consider that the sawmills of the South now produce 30 per cent of all the lumber used in the country."

"These meetings are simply to get at all the facts, to give us a thorough grasp of the problem, to inform us fully of its scope. When we have finished we will make a report and recommendations to the board of directors of the chamber and they will consider what action is necessary."



VIRGIN FOREST (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)



FIRE WOODLOT (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)



FOREST SERVICE FIRE LOOKOUT (Courtesy U.S. Forest Service)

"Taxation is a big factor in this problem. If we exempt certain timber lands from taxation, as they have seen wise to do in some of the older countries, it will encourage the seedling of that land to timber. As it now stands millions of acres that might, and really should, be yielding timber, are sown to other products and bringing a negligible return.

"This is simply because this is timber land and timber should be on it. The farmers, however, consider that since it is taxed they must sow something which will bring an immediate return. There are 5,000,000 acres of nontillable land in Illinois alone.

"We have in the United States 81,000,000 acres of what is called denuded land, and more than 400,000,000 acres of what we call cutover land. Denuded land is land on which forest fires have occurred and where the fire has eaten its way so deep into the soil as to destroy the seedlings that might spring up.

"Cutover land is land from which timber has been taken and on which a second growth is possible and often times springs up. Such land will make forests in a period of some forty years if it is taken care of. Taking care of such land is another phase of the forestry problem."

The National Forests, created in 1905, now contain 155,000,000 acres of forest and grazing land. They are managed by the forest service, a bureau of the agriculture department. Col. W. B. Greeley is forester. Presumably he is well informed on forestry conditions. Here are some figures he gives which show how the changed and changing conditions have affected a particular part of the country. Says Colonel Greeley:

"Chicago is the greatest lumber market in the world. Since 1890 an average of over 2,000,000,000 feet of lumber has come into Chicago every year. In 1920 the figure was nearly 2,500,000,000 feet, 60 per cent of which went into local construction and manufacturing industries. In 1900 the average freight paid on lumber coming into Chicago was less than \$3 per thousand feet. Since that time the local sources of supply for this territory have been exhausted one after another. Lumber shipments have traversed greater and greater distances, and the average freight bill paid by the Chicago distributor has steadily risen to more than \$12 per thousand feet.

"In other words, the increased transportation charge on lumber shipments into Chicago, as a result of the exhaustion of the forest regions surrounding it, represents a toll of \$22,500,000 annually. And while this has happened there have accumulated in the central and lake states nearly 23,000,000 acres of logged-off forest land which is producing neither farm crops nor timber; \$22,500,000 is the yearly tax which the wood-using industries and home builders, supplied through Chicago, pay for the idleness of a large part of the soil in the surrounding states which should furnish the natural supply for this district. This sum would plant every year 1,500,000 acres of land with forest trees.

"This illustration may be extended to cover the four states of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. These states consume annually between 4,000,000,000 and 5,000,000,000 feet of timber in furniture factories, sash and door mills, factories manufacturing agricultural implements, wood-turning establishments and other wood-using industries. Sawmills are excluded from this estimate, also the requirements for general construction and housing, and the consumption of lumber on farms.

"The manufacturers referred to represent an invested capital of \$700,000,000 and employ 250,000 skilled employees. This great manufacturing industry was built up on the softwood forest of the lake states and the hardwood forests of the Ohio and upper Mississippi valleys, whose products were available at a low transportation cost. In

these four states enough forest land to supply in full the needs of these industries now stands idle."

Concerning the general situation he says:

"We are cutting our timber probably four times as fast as timber is being grown. It is useless to decry the generous use which American industry has made of our forests. It has contributed powerfully to the industrial development and commercial supremacy of the United States. The forestry problem does not result from the liberal use of our forests, but from our failure to use our forest-growing land. There is an ample area of land in this country, which is not tillable, to support all of our timber requirements, all of our wood manufactures, all of our home building and agricultural use of lumber. Indeed an even larger export trade than at present, if that land can be kept at work growing timber.

"Reforestation has not been taken seriously by the average business man in the United States. Reforestation has been looked upon as a fad quite removed from the practical interests of the manufacturer, as something more concerned with parks or shade trees or rose bushes. Nevertheless, reforestation has now become a commercial necessity of the United States."

Here is how a particular state is affected says Prof. P. S. Lovejoy of the Forestry faculty, University of Michigan:

"A third of Michigan virtually is bankrupt, unable to pay its way with schools and roads, getting poorer instead of richer from year to year, producing less and less of value. This third of Michigan takes 10,000,000 acres or so, the most of it being in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula, the rest in the Upper Peninsula. The bulk of these bankrupt lands were originally in pine forest. From 1870 to 1900 Michigan led the world in the quantity, quality and value of its timber exports. Today Michigan is a tremendous importer of timber and other forest products. This is unusual but not in itself a proof that anything is radically wrong. Ohio, also, was covered originally with timber and is now a great importer, and is, nevertheless, prosperous and thriving.

"But in the case of Ohio, the removal of the forests was followed promptly by intensive agricultural developments; the land went from a lower to a higher kind of use.

"Michigan-grown hemlock, shipped 200 miles, sells at the same price in Detroit as does fir grown on the Pacific coast and shipped 2,000 miles. The hickory for the wheels of Michigan automobiles is coming from Arkansas and Mississippi. The oak for Grand Rapids furniture is being cut in Louisiana and Tennessee. Michigan does not even supply itself with enough telephone poles and railroad ties, but imports poles from Idaho and ties from Virginia. Much of the paper on which our newspapers are being printed is made from Canadian spruce. Box-boards are being shipped in from Pennsylvania and Arkansas and California. The state imports much more timber than it cuts and cuts much more timber than it grows, constantly grows and cuts less and constantly imports more.

"The freight bill on imported lumber alone is costing Michigan around \$2,000,000 a year, and each year the freight bill is due to increase greatly as the sources of supply recede with the steady devastation of the forests of the South and West. Meanwhile Michigan continues to support 10,000,000 acres or so of idle lands which a few years ago were producing the most generally useful kinds of timber the world ever had. White pine lumber practically is out of the market. There is not a town of 5,000 in the state which does not import yellow pine from the Gulf states."

Forest fires in the United States annually destroy more than 2,000,000,000 feet of timber. More than 100,000 forest fires have occurred in the United States during the past five years, 80 per cent of which were due to human agencies and therefore preventable. These conflagrations burned over 56,488,000 acres—an area greater than the included within the states of Ohio and Pennsylvania—and destroyed \$85,700,000 worth of timber and property.

SAW 'HER CLOWNS'

Sick Child's Life Saved by Celebrated Comedians.

Action of French Funmakers That Shines "Like Good Deed in a Naughty World."

The Fratellini brothers, celebrated clowns of Medrano (general favorites of the Continent), were recently the heroes of a singularly touching little incident.

It appears that the nine-year-old daughter of the Widow Colcourt, 31 Rue Francoeur, shortly after attending a performance in which the clowns had appeared, fell seriously ill. In her delirium the child was obsessed with the desire to see them again—the marvelous buffoons who made her laugh so on that evening of happy enchantment; she kept calling for "her clowns."

Months passed while the mother stubbornly fought for the life of her child, and gradually the illness responded to the treatment. The little girl, however, remained sad, pensive and lacking animation. The doctor shook his head, puzzled and alarmed by the child's listlessness. "She should have something to distract her," he said.

How entertain her? The mother was far from being a wealthy woman. Since, however, the child continually spoke of "her clowns," why should she not go to the Fratellini brothers, themselves, and ask their help? She reflected that these celebrated artists were good men who gave generously to charity; that they sometimes went to the hospitals to entertain the inmates and bring them cheer. Why should she not go to them and ask them to help save her child?

The upshot was that two days later the widow went to the circus and requested an audience with the Fratellini brothers. They were, at the moment, on the stage; she could hear their silly laughter as she stood in the wings and waited. When, presently, pausing from their exertions, they came tumbling off, she made her request hurriedly, stopping them, tears standing in her eyes.

The three clowns are the fathers of 14 children, all told. They promised to go the very next day to see the little sick girl, adding that it would not cost the widow a penny.

And sure enough, the next day, arrayed in their most gorgeous costumes, grotesque, hilarious, altogether marvelous, they enacted from full hearts before the little invalid their most fantastic sketch, singing and dancing and grimacing. And the ecstatic child, mad with happiness and with a new light in her eyes, clapped her hands, laughing through exquisite tears, and shouted: "Encore! Encore!"

The clowns entertained her for two hours; and when they left—quietly and discreetly, as they had come—they promised to come again.

And that is the end of the story, as the mother told it the other day—except that the little girl is well on the road to recovery. The widow came to the writer and related the facts, very simply. And the story seemed to the writer a very good story, indeed.—From Le Petit Parisien.

Birth of a Star.

The vast black mass, 20,000,000 times larger than the sun, demonstrated to exist in the heavens by the Dutch scientist, Dr. Pannekoek, seems to upset all earlier astronomical calculations.

It is, comparatively speaking, so near us that Doctor Pannekoek suggests that the sun itself must move round it once in 2,000,000 years—drawing the earth with it.

"We believe that the black body must consist of dust, and that this is the first stage in the birth of a star," said an expert. "As it condenses it gets hotter until it becomes luminous and visible. Sudden 'flares' or 'new stars' have been seen in our lifetime, but the black cloud of dust appears to be the real beginning.

"The amazing feature is the nearness of the body. It is relatively as close to the earth as a foot rule would appear to be if only two feet away from the eye. It is quite possible that even vaster bodies of this kind exist." The nearness is relative. The body is 280,000,000,000 miles away.

Papal Titles More Costly.

Papal titles have gone up in cost according to a circular which has been sent out by the Vatican announcing an increase in the fees chargeable for the award of papal titles. The following list of titles and costs is given: Prince—Personal title, 10,685 lire. Hereditary title, 21,500 lire. Duke.—Personal title, 9,600 lire. Hereditary title, 19,500 lire. Marquis—Personal title, 7,500 lire. Hereditary title, 15,000 lire. Baron.—Personal title, 5,400 lire. Hereditary title, 10,800 lire. Payment, it is stipulated, is to be made in gold, which would bring the cost of a princely title to a hundred thousand lire. The nominal value of the lira is about 19 cents.

Circus to Travel in Motor Trucks.

An eastern circus organization will tour the country this year in motor trucks costing from \$12,000 to \$30,000 apiece. It is estimated the saving in rail charges will go a long way to pay for this equipment. The motorized circus will be able to travel anywhere and, being independent of train service, may make towns not often visited by large shows.

MINISTER DISCUSSES HIS WIFE'S TROUBLES

Rev. A. H. Sykes, former pastor of the Watkins Park Presbyterian church, Nashville, Tenn., says:

"After seeing what Tanlac has accomplished in my wife's case, I am convinced that it is a medicine of great power and extraordinary merit. I do not think I have ever seen anything give such prompt results. Mrs. Sykes had been in delicate health for ten months, suffering from stomach trouble and nervous breakdown.

"I frequently sought medical advice but Tanlac is the only thing that gave her any relief. After taking the medicine only a short time, she was able to sit up and help with the household duties. I think it only a short time until her health will be fully restored."

Tanlac is sold by leading druggists everywhere.—Advertisement.

Gosh! Prohibit Hugging.

A New Jersey magistrate has fined a man for hugging a girl while driving an automobile. Cupid is no more successful than Bacchus as a safety first patron for motorists.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Cuticura Soothes Baby Rashes

That itch and burn with hot baths of Cuticura Soap followed by gentle anointings of Cuticura Ointment. Nothing better, purer, sweeter, especially if a little of the fragrant Cuticura Talcum is dusted on at the finish. 25c each everywhere.—Advertisement.

Jury Duty.

"Court procedure is very dull." "Yes, they offer very little to interest a fired business man."

An old bachelor says that he never married because marriage is a lottery and lotteries are illegal.

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