

NATION'S PAPER SUPPLY DEPENDS ON SAVING FORESTS

By Robert H. Moulton

Our policy of wilful waste in the past is bringing about a condition of woeful want :: Alaska's great resources



THE people of the United States are the most inveterate and wasteful readers of newspapers in the world. Not only do we have the largest papers for the least money, but we demand an extra edition almost every hour, in the bigger cities of the country. Like griddle cakes, we like them only when they're hot, and the wonderful pictorials for which the world has been scanned by the editors, are thrown aside after a cursory examination.

Did you ever stop to think of the time when this incessant demand for the print paper may not be met? Already we hear of the rapid increase in the price of pulp, which is reaching a stage where many of the smaller publications of the country will have to go out of business. Even the bigger ones are feeling the pinch, and some are raising their prices, others reducing the number of pages, and still others are making the advertiser pay. The newspapers have not been the only ones to suffer by pulp shortage, for book publishers, too, have had their worries. In fact, all users of paper, down to the schoolboy with his tablet, have had to pay more for an inferior quality of paper than was the case a year or two ago.

In 1914, we used about 5,000 tons of newsprint every day. Our present use has reached 6,000 tons a day, and the demand is increasing at the rate of about 10 per cent a year, which is greatly in excess of the rate of increase in population.

To supply our presses with newsprint requires annually about 3,000,000 cords of pulp wood. To meet our requirements for magazines and book papers, stationery and business papers of all kinds, 4,000,000 cords more of pulp wood are consumed annually. Production barely keeps up this consumption, for while it is estimated the newspapers will need about 888,000 tons for the first six months of this year, the estimated supply is fixed at 930,000 tons.

But a few years ago this country was able to supply all of its own needs and in addition furnish paper to foreign countries, but that time has passed. Now we must depend upon Canada for at least a third of our domestic supply, and this percentage is rapidly increasing.

Our forefathers, and even our fathers, looked about them, and saw apparently endless and inexhaustible supplies of forest trees. The woodman was not told to "spare that tree," and they were ruthlessly, sometimes wantonly, destroyed. Where one tree was utilized for commercial purposes, two trees were allowed to remain as they fell, only to rot away or be burned in the first forest fire that swept over the devastated area. Today this policy has resulted in our privately owned supply of pulp woods being so exhausted that not more than 15 years' supply remains.

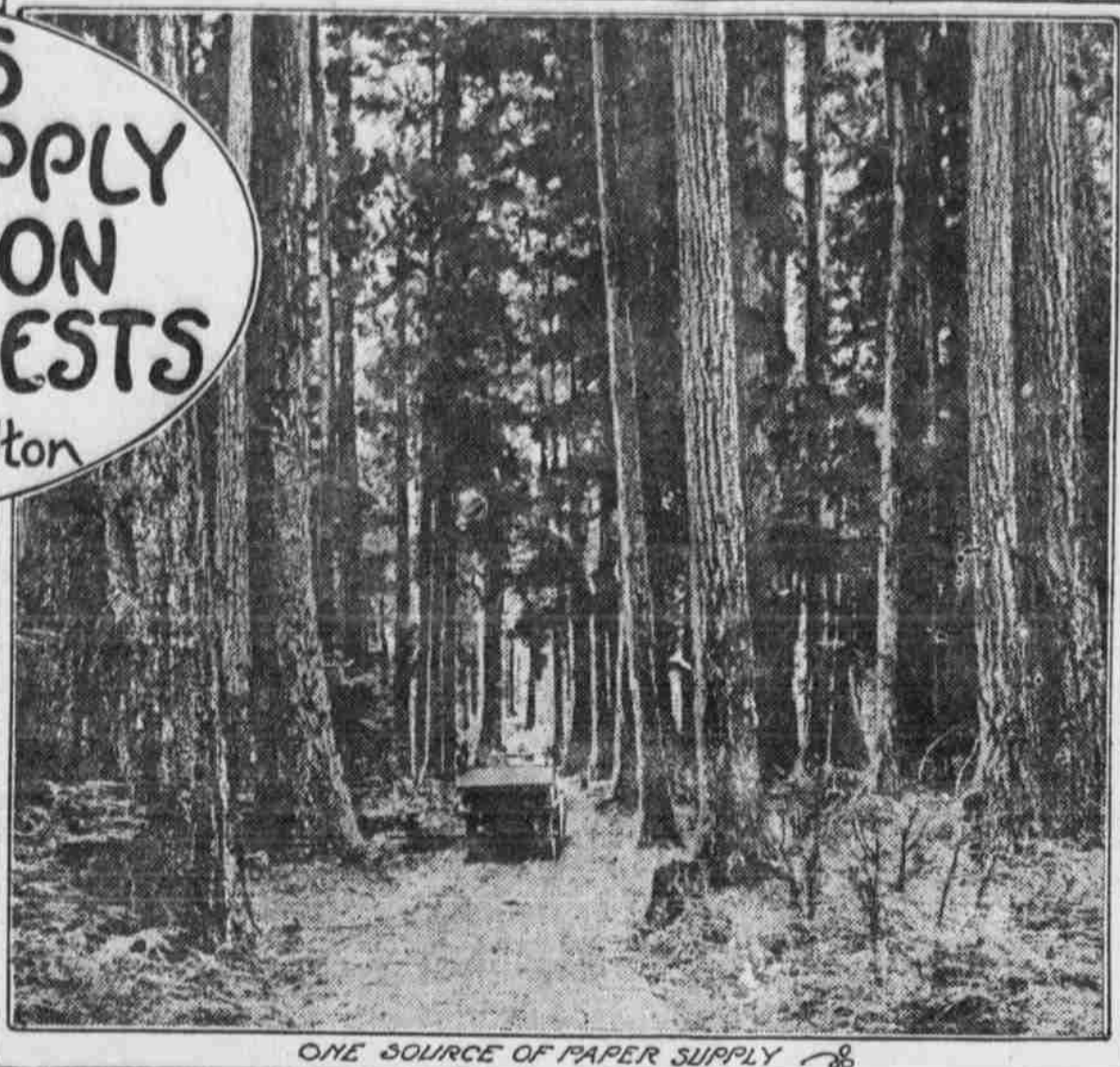
Serious as the situation appears to be, there is no cause for alarm, if we wake up to our duty to conserve our remaining supply. There is enough pulp wood in our national forest to meet the future needs of this country, and if we pursue a systematic course in avoiding waste in our wood-manufacturing plants and encourage the reforestation of our cut-over lands (of which there are 70,000,000 acres in the northern states alone) we could easily supply the world. By following the correct practices of forestry, and by conserving our supply, the publicly owned timber in the United States will last indefinitely.

The forest service has estimated that there are in the national forests at least 300,000,000,000 feet of pulp wood. This is equivalent to 600,000,000 cords, and for all kinds of paper we use but 7,000,000 cords a year. This estimate does not include the pulp wood available on privately owned lands of the West.

Practically all of our pulp is at present made from northern woods, where stumpage costs run from \$2.50 to \$5 per cord, standing in the forest. In the West timber suitable for the manufacture of pulp ranges in price from 25 cents to \$1.25 per cord. The fact that these vast supplies in the West have not yet been developed is due to several causes. Lack of transportation has been a big handicap and then the large investments tied up in the paper mills preclude their movement while it is possible to secure timber nearer at hand, even at vastly higher prices.

From the standpoint of geographical location and transportation to the majority of the paper users in the central and eastern states. The Western paper woods fall into two broad belts. The first is available to tidewater shipments from the Pacific coast, lying principally on the west slope of the Cascade mountains in Oregon and Washington, including vast areas tributary to Puget sound and running up along the seaboard in southeasterly Alaska. There are 70,000,000,000 feet of spruce and hemlock in the national forests of Alaska alone. In many respects the conditions found in Alaska duplicate those of Norway, the leading country of the world in the paper industry. It is said by those who have studied the country that the forest of Alaska will produce more wealth for the United States than even her gold or her coal, vast and valuable as are those commodities.

The second timber belt of Western paper woods extends through the northern Rocky mountains, from the Canadian line into Colorado and Utah. This belt, shut off from water transportation can hardly be considered a practical source of supply of paper for the eastern states, but is a logical storehouse of raw materials for the paper requirements of the Mississippi valley. The Rocky mountains contain a number of excellent paper woods, and with proper development should supply both the paper required for local consumption and that necessary to replace the diminishing



ONE SOURCE OF PAPER SUPPLY

ing supplies of the lake states for the needs of the middle West.

In addition to the principal pulp-supplying woods, spruce and hemlock, it has been found from tests made by the government that at least 12 other species are suitable for the manufacture of pulp. Some of these new species are Englemann spruce, lodgepole pine, white fir and other cheap and plentiful coniferous woods of the West. At least ten of these woods were found to be good enough for newsprint, and paper made from some of them was actually used in editions of several metropolitan newspapers.

In looking to the West for our future supply of wood pulp it is gratifying to note that two other elements that will make for the ready development of the wood-pulp industry are found in proximity to the forests. These two elements are waterpower and coal. Throughout the mountainous states of the West are hundreds of streams, the power from which, if conserved and harnessed, would operate with the minimum of expense, the greatest pulp plants in the world. The same is true of our undeveloped coal fields in Alaska and other states.

In carrying out the government policy of utilizing the natural resources of the country without injuring them, the forest service last year made sales of public timber amounting to \$1,705,000. These sales were made to a great number of widely scattered interests, including lumber companies, railroads, mining companies and one Western paper mill. To encourage the establishment of new mills and pulp plants in the West, the government has announced that it will enter into long-term contracts for the supplying of timber at moderate prices, and under such conditions as are just, both to the purchaser and the public.

Experts report that it is entirely practical to manufacture newsprint in Alaska and deliver it, through the Panama canal, to New York, at a cost of not more than \$85 per ton. When it is considered that current prices for similar paper range from \$60 a ton upward, it is evident that a new industry could be built up in Alaska that would be an exceedingly profitable one.

While no definite plans have been made to that end, it is possible that before long Uncle Sam may find it profitable to erect his own mill in Alaska to produce print paper. Such a mill would cost about \$2,500,000, and it would pay for itself within a few years. The present attitude of the government officials is that if private manufacturers of paper can be induced to meet the demands of the country it would be unwise for the government to enter the field, but if our present threatened shortage of paper materials, such a plant will doubtless be constructed in Alaska.

Another phase of the wood-pulp industry that is being considered by the government experts, is to more fully utilize the vast quantities of wood wasted annually by the sawmills of the country. This waste aggregates something over 60,000,000 cords a year, a large part of which might be saved.

If we are to make our paper industry a permanent one, it is necessary for us not only to conserve our present supply but to plant cut-over lands, to insure a supply in the years to come. Denuded lands can be planted with 1,000 young trees per acre at a cost of about \$10 per acre. Some of the large paper companies are now doing this, and their efforts are being encouraged by the government. In addition, the forest service is carrying out a definite policy of reforestation in various parts of the country.

BOYS IN KHAKI AND SOME WHO ARE NOT QUICK TO LEARN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE

Men have taken to the study of French with only a little less assiduity than women to knitting. They are a trifle more shy about it, to be sure. One does not hear them "parleying" to any great extent in public places, but they are secretly much pleased with their achievement of a few phrases, and make no doubt about it, they will soon be able to make love to the French girls and keep up their end of the conversation with the polius.

Of course, it began with the soldiers and sailors, this eagerness to learn French. They had good reason, and, besides, there were invitations displayed everywhere for them to enroll themselves in French classes and be taught this delightful language without charge. There aren't so many things offered free, even to young men in uniform, that they can afford to slight anything bearing the gratis tag.

Then there are a great many attractive young women who pucker their mouths up quite bewitchingly in teaching the novice how to pronounce the French "u." A pretty American girl as a teacher of French is a temptation to those who would not pursue learning for its own sake. Of course, there are all kinds of teachers and some are stern—just teachers. But most of them seem to have a pretty good idea that the young men in uniform are not wanting to read Cornell or Mollere at present, but just to know the words that may help them to find their way around in France when they are off duty and ask for something to eat or a few things like that, and if they go a little further will help them at least to start a conversation with the French of both sexes.

"Easy French" and other little books with similarly alluring titles are to be found in many a khaki pocket and are pulled out for study on the train or elsewhere. One young man with a single bar on his shoulder covered the English part of the menu with his hand in a restaurant and read aloud every article on the French side to his own great satisfaction. The only sad moment was when he gave his order in his best French and the waiter said, "Beg pardon, sir."

Young men who are not in uniform are taking up French, too. Of course, they never know when they may be called.

Also, after the war every one will want to go to France and won't want to leave all the talking to the military chaps, who will be puffed up enough, any way. French is going to be such a popular language and the French such fine people that it would be bad form for an American to be out of it altogether.

Two young men were having a discussion as to which it would be more advantageous to study, French or Spanish, if an American wanted a second language as his command. "Spanish will be the language of the most profitable business for us, that of South America," one asserted.

"There will be some business to be done with

the French," replied the other.

"No, French will be all right as an accomplishment and for social purposes, but I'll bet there will be more dollars for the man who speaks Spanish."

"Spain's a foreign country to me, but France is my kin. Me for the French language."

Aside from the American volunteers who have learned enough French at home or abroad to feel qualified to pass it on there are many French persons who are exceedingly glad to exchange the knowledge of their mother tongue for the useful American dollar.

To the taut that Americans could never really talk French a man, coming a book on French idioms, retorted, "Well, I bet we can beat the Tommies out."

One Man Considered Enlistment Good as a Raiser of Wages—Isidore Kantor's Mistake.

Some amusing stories are coming out of the draft exemption boards. In Chicago one of those called for examination claimed exemption on the ground of supporting his mother.

"I save \$1 a week out of my pay and give it to my mother," he said.

"Well, do you know you can save \$8 out of your army pay and give it to her?"

"Is that so? Sure, you can take me, then. It's just as good as getting a raise."

Of a different nature is an incident that occurred in New York. They were testing the eyes of Isidore Kantor, who claimed his sight was very poor. After placing him a little closer to the eye chart one of the examiners asked:

"Now can you see?"

"I see," said Isidore, "nothing but a blur."

Then they took him closer yet.

"How now?"

"Every'ting," said Isidore, "is like a fog in front of me."

Far across the room an assistant examiner held aloft an oblong bit of yellowish paper.

"Whoever tells me what this is can have it," he yelled.

Isidore turned and took one short look.

"I got it!" he announced. "It's a ten tollars!"

That particular \$10 was held back, but the ex-emptors promised Isidore that his Uncle Sam will give him three like it every month until the war is over.

MOTHER'S OVERSIGHT.

Olive was teasing to have a party on her birthday, which came in the winter, so she could invite the little girls whose parties she had attended the previous summer. But as the weather was severe at that time she was told she would have to give it up, as none of her little friends would be able to come on account of the cold. She fretted considerably over this, and finally exclaimed: "Mother, why didn't you ask God to send me in the summer time?"

STATE MONEY GETS HIGHER INTEREST

FREASURER HALL REPORTS BIDS OF 5 PER CENT

NEWS FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Varied Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources at the State House

State Treasurer George E. Hall has compiled a report of the results of the new method of giving state funds to banks that offer the highest rate of interest. The last legislature passed a bill authorizing the state funds to be given to the highest bidder. Governor Neville vetoed this act but with the understanding that the state treasurer had authority to auction state funds in that way under an existing statute which says the treasurer may make rules under which state funds can be deposited in depository banks.

Under the law which gives the state treasurer power to fix the rate of interest on state funds, anywhere above 2 per cent depository banks have paid the uniform rate of interest for state funds, namely 3 per cent. State Treasurer Hall has a total of \$463,413 of state funds in depository banks. Most of this, or \$230,000 is drawing 4 per cent, and \$102,000 is drawing 5 per cent. Banks in the western and northern part of the state are paying the state 5 per cent.

Treasurer Hall says in his report to the governor and members of the legislature that the new plan will bring to the state \$25,000 in two years more in interest than was derived under the 3 per cent rate. Not all of this is derived from the increase in interest rate, but some of it being on account of an increase in the amount of state funds constantly on deposit.

Part of Pay to be Set Aside

How the United States government intends to provide for the support of families and other dependents of soldiers serving in its army and navy is set forth in a telegram which Governor Neville has received from the war department and which he in turn is transmitting to the local exemption boards in Nebraska.

This data will enable the exemption boards to decide more intelligently in each case where exemption is claimed on the ground of dependency.

Besides the stipulated monthly allowance to dependents, as fixed by the act of congress, it is provided that part of the pay due each enlisted man shall be set aside monthly for his dependents at home.

Dairy Judging Team Returns

J. R. Shepherd, L. F. Lundgren, J. D. McKelvey and Ell Duncombe, composing the Nebraska dairy judging team, have returned from the annual dairy judging contest held at Columbus, O., in connection with the national dairy show. The Nebraska team this year stood first in the judging of Holsteins and won the Holstein-Friesian silver trophy for the best work in this breed. J. R. Shepherd also has the distinction of having the highest standing of any student participating in the contest in the judging of Holsteins, and received the \$100 scholarship awarded by the Holstein-Friesian association. J. D. McKelvey, '18, is the highest ranking man on the Nebraska team.

Urges Students Back to Farm

Chancellor Avery makes the following announcement:

"All students of the university who can render a service to the country and to the farmers of the state by helping to gather the corn crop are urged to return to the farm for the purpose of securing a leave of absence for this purpose. On your return to the university special coaches will be assigned to you without cost and every opportunity afforded for making up back work. This is a patriotic duty at a time when there should be no selfishness on the part of any of our people."

Mayor J. E. Miller of Lincoln has been named by State Fuel Administrator Kennedy as a member of the advisory committee to the latter, representing all parts of the state. Mr. Miller's appointment is for the First congressional district.

Will Send Gift Bags to Soldiers

Sixty gift bags will be filled and forwarded from the Nebraska state capitol to American soldiers in France to be distributed at Christmas time. The food commission and the state engineer's office are each taking care of ten or a dozen, and other departments are doing their part.

Many applicants from experienced farm hands wanting work are being received daily at the labor commissioner's office. Nearly all applicants have been placed so far.

State Donates \$9,500 for Libraries

Secretary Charlotte Templeton of the state library commission has received about \$9,500 in cash contributions from different communities in Nebraska for the purpose of buying reading matter to supply American soldiers in their camps. The money has been forwarded to the war libraries council at Washington. A number of places have not yet finished their canvasses for funds, and a few have not yet started. Secretary Templeton believes that at least \$12,000 will be raised in the state.

BIG OCTOBER BUSINESS

Cash Receipts for the Month Totaled \$9,425.40

The volume of business transacted in the office of the secretary of state was greater in the month just closed than in any preceding October in the history of the state. The cash receipts for the month totaled \$9,425.00, an increase of \$4,316.95 over the month of October in 1916. The fees were derived from the following sources:

	1916	1917
Corporation permits	\$2,890.00	\$4,240.00
Corporation penalties	252.00	616.00
Filing articles of incorporation	1,648.20	3,014.05
Appointment resident agents		350.00
Notary commissions	56.00	66.00
Brands	139.50	858.00
Certificates and transcripts	48.25	232.15
Sale of statutes	67.00	48.00
Other sources	7.50	.70
Total	\$5,108.45	\$9,425.40
Increase over 1916—		\$4,316.95.

Northwestern Nebraska Potatoes

Northwestern Nebraska has attracted rather more attention than usual this year by its enormous crops of potatoes. The largest tubers in that section are grown under irrigation, but the bulk of the crop, and the best quality potatoes are grown on the upland without irrigation.

Lloyd C. Thomas of Alliance sent his father, Deputy Land Commissioner John W. Thomas, a box of Box Butte county spuds that combined both quality and good size. Thirty-eight potatoes from which these were taken weighed sixty pounds.

The legislative district which is represented by the younger Mr. Thomas, composed of Box Butte and Sheridan counties, grows more potatoes than any other like district in the state, and these spuds are famous far and near for their splendid quality.

Offers to Sell Ashland Bridge

Owners of the toll bridge over the Platte river at Ashland have made a proposition to the state board of irrigation, highways and drainage to sell it to the state and Saunders county for \$15,000, or \$5,000 less than the valuation fixed by engineers for the railway commission, if the state will pay \$10,000 and the county \$5,000 right away and then permit the company to operate the bridge and retain the revenues for another ten months.

Alex Lavery of Ashland, who submitted the offer, estimates that the earnings for ten months will amount to \$7,500, which added to the \$15,000 which the state and county would pay, will make the \$22,500 which the owners ask.

To Inspect New Seventh Regiment

Major C. F. Severson of the regular army, now stationed at Fort Crook, has been detailed by the war department to inspect the new Seventh regiment, Nebraska national guard, preliminary to its recognition and acceptance for federal service. Governor Neville, as colonel of the regiment, has been notified of Major Severson's assignment and the latter requests him to prepare an itinerary. This will be made up at once by Adjutant General Clapp under the governor's direction. As soon as it is completed, the inspector says he can start within twenty-four hours. Each town where a company of the regiment is located will be visited.

But One Bank Represented

No state banks in Nebraska have joined the federal reserve system in response to the recommendation of the governing board of regional banks that all institutions operating under state laws become members. Secretary Tooley of the state banking board has received a few inquiries from Nebraska banks but none of the institutions has taken the necessary steps. The Bank of Lewellen, with \$25,000 capital, doing business in Garden county, is the only state bank which has joined the regional system.

After reconsidering its former action in designating the Central National bank of Lincoln as the depository for federal aid road funds sent to Nebraska, the state board of irrigation, highways and drainage has adopted a new motion providing that such funds shall be held by the state treasurer and paid out by him. This was done in order to remove any suspicion that the board intended to play favorites among the banks of the state.

Coach E. J. Stewart of the University football squad announces that he has signed a three-year contract with Syracuse for Thanksgiving games in Lincoln, with an option to extend the agreement an additional two years. When arrangements for the Thanksgiving day battle were completed last year, it was understood the two universities would enter into a five-year contract for games in Lincoln on that date. The Syracuse arrangement insures Nebraska a big Thanksgiving day game. The Husker management gives Syracuse a \$5,000 guarantee.

Confirms Validity of Leases

Attorney General Reed has received word that Judge Westover of the district court has given a decision in favor of the validity of mineral leases which the state board of educational lands and funds has not been issuing the past six months. The leases in question were potash leases on state land and involve the right of the state board to issue such leases in the absence of a statute granting the board such authority and in the face of the fact that prior leases to the same tracts are in existence.