

**THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION MEETING AT OMAHA.**

The American Forestry Association held a meeting in the Board of Trade rooms, Omaha, September 9 and 10. The first session was called to order at 2:20 on Friday, September 9. There were present Hon. R. W. Furnas, J. Sterling Morton, Mr. E. D. Wheeler, S. M. Knox, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, F. H. Newell, Dr. George L. Miller, Messrs. E. F. Stephens, S. M. Emory, Henry Michelson, William T. Little, M. Dunham and Mr. Adams.

Hon. R. W. Furnas was chosen chairman and F. H. Newell secretary of the meeting.

MR. NEWELL: We were anxious to hold a meeting in the West, especially at the time of the Omaha exposition, and the Nebraska people were also desirous that we should, but there seemed to be many insuperable obstacles. Many of our officers could not come to Omaha at about this time. Many of them are active men who are compelled to be in the forest at this part of the season, and therefore we tried by correspondence to put the burden of the meeting upon some of our Western members and friends. We first tried Governor Morton, and he stated he would be glad to act but felt that his friend, Governor Furnas, was the one man who could do it properly, and Governor Furnas, I think, said that Professor Bessey was the proper person. Professor Bessey said that Professor Taylor was by all odds the man who could and should do it. Professor Taylor could not get out of it very well, as the time had grown short, and so he very kindly took it, but he has been very busy and has not been able to give as much time to it as he would wish to, and asked me to express his regrets that he has not been able to personally attend to details.

"The summer meeting is more of the nature of a meeting for becoming acquainted, for seeing the country and presenting papers. At the annual meeting very few papers are presented, and we depend largely upon the summer meeting to get the material for publication. There were proposed three meetings—one in New England, devoted to the forestry of the East; one in Omaha, which should be devoted to tree planting on the Plains, and one in California, devoted to the public forests. The New England meeting was held in Boston in connection with the Association for the Advancement of Science and was quite successful, as a large number of members were brought together. This is the second here in Omaha, and the third in California has been definitely abandoned, owing to the extreme drouth there, and we are not willing to try to induce Eastern friends to come there, as everything is burned up. The drouth is the worst probably known in the memory of living men. At the same time, although our attendance is numerically small it is exceedingly se-

lect, and we need not be discouraged, because we have the gathered experience here of another year."

(Here he read the call for the meeting as gotten out by Professor Taylor).

"This plan has been carried out as far as Professor Taylor could do it and, for my own part, I have been in the West and had abandoned all hopes of being here, having been out on one of the Indian reservations. I offer that as an excuse for my lack of definite knowledge."

GOVERNOR FURNAS: "The first subject is: 'Where Does Our Timber Come From?' and I will take the privilege of calling upon Mr. Emory to lead."

MR. EMORY: "This takes me decidedly at a disadvantage. I can tell you where the timber is going to, and that is the matter that concerns us most, so far as our institution is concerned. I can speak for our own state. We are self-supporting in that state (Montana), perhaps with the exception of finishing lumber and hardwood lumber suitable for flooring. A great deal of interest is now being manifested in the matter of finishing lumber in the Tamarack timber which is found on the western slopes of the main range, a very few scattering trees being found of that variety on another location within our state. This supply is very abundant and of very superior quality, and possesses in a remarkable degree the ability to hold together in what is perhaps the most trying climate in the United States. We find that it is extremely necessary in Montana to depart from the usual known rules of putting together furniture, a very prominent instance of which came under my observation in the last year. I will never forget the way in which our professor of mechanical engineering and shop work erected all our buildings. He is an old Montanian of many years' experience, and when the question was asked him who was responsible for the finishing of the desks in our mechanical building in the manner that is so often done in a way to prevent the warping, he said that not a piece of the material handled in that fashion stayed. We have there to consider the very best material that we can get that is going to be used in the finishings of houses or furniture or anything of that nature, and we have great hopes in this Tamarack on this account. I saw a very elegant bank counter that had been cut from the log and kiln dried; it was of Tamarack material and had stayed since 1890. This was in '98. It showed no marks of the trouble of shrinking. In this Tamarack timber we have very great hope. Then we have a very fair quality of what I suppose in Minnesota would be termed Norway pine. It is very similar to this which I see here.

"The Tamarack is growing at about 2,800 feet, but in the valley and well up on the mountain slopes as well. It is very fine timber and many trees run

from two and one-half to three feet in diameter. These two trees are going to give us flooring, furniture material and finishing lumber.

"Then for the construction of houses we have there what is known as the Yellow Pine, and this is often found sixty feet in length and eighteen inches in diameter, absolutely clear and free from anything in the line of knots. All of this lumber is found on the Pacific slope, and the Yellow Pine of which I spoke is our principal dependence for that class of work; and we get, of course, in this clear lumber much material that costs about twenty-two to thirty-two dollars per thousand, but on the ordinary dimension lumber we probably get the benefit of as cheap prices, especially on that slope, as is to be found in the United States. It is not an unknown thing to find lumber selling for six to eight dollars per thousand—not, of course, of the very best quality, but dimension lumber 2x4x8 and 12, such as the farmer would ordinarily use in the construction of farm buildings. On our slope of the mountain (Bozeman) we do not find quite as good quality as the lumber found on the west slope of the mountains. There is a great variety. We have a great deal of Lodgepole Pine. It seems to be the pine which is occupying the ground following fires. We have had a great deal of difficulty and suffered great loss from campers and irresponsible people, and whereas fairly good lumber has been destroyed by the fires, these grounds are occupied very extensively by the Lodgepole Pine, the worst evil of which is that it is brushy and does not get to be of sufficient size to make really first-class material.

"We have a good deal of Red Fir and we have a few Yellow Pine and a great deal of Spruce. For fencing we have very fine Red Cedar. Our farmers are using nothing but Red Cedar for fencing, as it is very durable. The ruling price is about \$15.00 per thousand for Red Cedar fence posts.

"The Washington Cedar we find to be very brushy and something that is not at all lasting in the ground. It is a lumber that is not good for fencing. I would not pay freight on the Washington Cedar for fence posts.

"We find one very peculiar condition on the eastern slopes with reference to the knots in timber. It is almost impossible to get clear timber. In small timber the knots are tight and it makes first-class flooring, except that the knots do not wear down along with the main part of the board, leaving it rough; but for siding, if it is well nailed, it makes a first-class building material. We encourage as far as we can among the farmers the use of native timber just as it is found for ordinary farm use. All our buildings are made of pine logs. We take the bark off before bugs or borers get to work inside the bark and cut the log to pieces. By cutting the