

FORESTERS CREATE JOBS

FIELD IS LIMITED AND RANKS ARE RAPIDLY BECOMING FILLED.

MEN MUST SPECIALIZE

Lumbering or Similar Phase of the Work Must Be Taken Up—Nebraska Course in Forestry Exceptional.

The field of technical forestry is necessarily limited. Although the "forestry movement" started almost fifteen years ago, and there are now twenty-four forestry schools turning out over one hundred and twenty-five men a year, there are only about six hundred trained foresters in the United States. The demand for forestry work does not nearly keep pace with this rapid production, so foresters will soon have to dig out jobs for themselves.

The widest and most popular field has always been the government service, but, as the ranks are becoming filled, only a few new men are required each year and the ranks of the entrance position is being reduced. Forestry work with states, cities, and private companies does not and probably never will require the services of all the men being turned out. This is indicated by a warning sent out by a commission which investigated the situation in Germany, where forestry has long been well established, stating that prospective students could not expect to get private or communal work.

There is one thing left for the surplus forestry students to do. They must adapt themselves to some closely allied work—lumbering, wood-using industries, wood products industries or nursery work. The forester who has not prepared for such work usually knows about it only in a general way. He must enter that work at the beginning and work up. This is just what many engineers and lawyers have been doing for a number of years on account of the crowding of the purely technical fields. In the future many forestry students will undoubtedly specialize more or less while in college on the line of work which they expect to take up. Thus, one may wish to become a logging engineer, another a mill superintendent, another a city forester another a nursery man, etc. At present there is no demand for technically trained foresters in these lines, and there probably never will be, but the opportunity is there for trained men to go into the work, usually with a greater chance for success than the man who starts in without such training.

The University of Nebraska, unlike most schools, requires that a man shall have one year of practical experience before he can receive a master's degree in forestry. This takes the place of a regular field course given in many schools, and is a very essential part of the forester's education. This makes it necessary for the embryo foresters to put all modesty and homesickness aside and dig right into practical work as soon as the summer vacation begins. If he is energetic and fortunate enough to land a job every summer, he will have had one year of practical experience by the end of his fifth year of school, making him eligible for a master's degree. The freshman, as a rule, are sent to Halsey, Neb., during the spring planting season, and here

they gain experience in nursery work and planting in the sandhills of the Nebraska National Forest.

The first summer vacation is usually the test of whether a man really wants to be a forester or not. The freshmen, as a rule, have to take the positions left over by the upper classmen. These positions are usually in sawmills, lumber camps, or planing mills. Men from the University have worked in lumber camps in Kentucky, Texas, Colorado, Arizona, Idaho, Montana and Wisconsin. If a freshman can "stick out" for a summer in a lumber camp it is a good sign that he has energy enough to make a good forester.

After the first summer's experience a student begins to think that he no longer belongs in the ranks of the common laborer, but that he might possibly be of some value to the forest service. A good many of the sophomores get positions as student assistants and field assistants in the service. For the last few years these men have been put largely on timber reconnaissance. They are sent out in the woods in crews of from four to twelve men, and it is their duty to make topographic and forest map and make an estimate of the timber.

After a student has worked in the service for a summer and has made good the sailing is pretty smooth. From then on he is not classed with the greenhorn, and consequently he is given a job in the summer time if the appropriation for the purpose permits it.

The summer trips of the foresters are an excellent means of advertising the University. Students from the forestry department are found in all sections of the country during the summer. Last summer students were engaged in forestry work in the following states: Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Washington, California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Kentucky, and Wisconsin.

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