

WELFARE OF U. S. DEPENDENT ON THE WOOD SUPPLY

Country's Timber Supply Rapidly Depleted Through Carelessness and Ignorance.

By T. W. McCULLOUGH.
How much the world depends for its progress on wood is just coming to be understood. Some students of forestry go so far as to say that as wood is plentiful or scarce, just so civilization advances or stands still. These used Europe before the war as illustrating their point. They say that the difference in living conditions there as compared with those of our country arose mainly from the fact that timber was so scarce that its use was restricted in many ways among the people. The social life naturally took on the aspect of fixedness because Europeans were limited in the matter of lumber. Whether this is tenable need not be argued here, but the fact that timber has a great and direct effect on the development of communities, states and nations might easily be sustained.
That something of this sort is recognized by the older nations is shown in the efforts they have made to preserve such timber as was left to them, and to propagate forests on places denuded by former generations of tree growth. This activity is not entirely an outgrowth of the war. While the waste of timber incident to the enormous demands of the war accelerated the situation and served to stimulate efforts to replace the diminished tree growth, forestation was already practiced extensively, particularly in France. Here the government had for many years engaged in planting trees on the sides of mountains, thus protecting the vineyards from the effects of sudden frosts by shading them down the bare hillsides, probably in the beginning outweighing the value of the timber that might eventually result. Some 5,000,000 acres had been thus reclaimed in France when the war broke out.

Realize Value of Replanting.
In the United States the idea of replanting logged-off lands has not made a great deal of progress, although its value is coming to be more fully realized. When Theodore Roosevelt was president he extended the forest reservations begun under Grover Cleveland, and really gave to conservation its first genuine impetus. In Pennsylvania, for example, and elsewhere in the Appalachians, system forestation was taken up to renew the timber growth that the floods which ensued each spring might be averted. The debate that followed the first enthusiastic burst of the conservationists has given way to calmer counsel, but this has only deepened the conviction that Americans have squandered a wonderful asset through the devastation of their forests.

Vast Forests Destroyed.
It is calculated now that the United States had in the beginning 5,500 billion feet of standing timber. This has been reduced to about 2,600 billion feet. That seems a sufficient supply, but the experience of the country has been such as warrants the conclusion that our forest wealth would be extinguished in a comparatively short time were not something done to prevent. About one-half of the standing timber in the United States at present is contained in farm woodlots, a little more than half of the remainder is privately owned, leaving the government in possession of less than one-fourth of the uncultured trees. Of the annual diminution, about one-third is due to forest fires, one-third to waste, one-third is cut for useful purposes. In the early days probably half was due to waste, for the first settlers had little thought but to get rid of the growing timber, that the trees might make way for grains and grasses. Many a man in the Mississippi valley region looks out over the landscape and sighs when he thinks of the great forests he could view as a boy, and of their destruction. It will not help matters to scold our grandfathers for doing as they did, but it might be of use to plan so that our grandchildren will understand that something was done to retrieve the great blunder of our sires.

Forest Fires Costly.
Forest fires in the main are preventable. The forestry service of the government has worked out a patrol system that is of immense use in this regard. Campers have been taught the probable effects of carelessness with fire in the woods; electric wires passing through timber lands are carefully watched for leaks; lightning bolts are closely watched; the friction of one dead tree against another, a frequent source of disaster, and many other causes of hazards are guarded against as completely as possible. When a fire does break out, organized effort to check it is made and frequently with great success, so that the loss from this source is much less than it once was, but yet a staggering sum.
A blaze in the Yukon territory, reported recently, swept both banks of the Peel river for 160 miles, destroying millions of feet of lumber. The economic aspect of such calamities is now understood and the vigilance of the fire patrol in some parts of the United States is increased by the provision of airplanes that the observer may cover a greater territory and move faster when emergency does arise. It may not be possible to do away with fire loss altogether, but the total may be reduced and the liability minimized through the extension of the forestry service.

Use Substitutes for Wood.
Whether restriction is to be placed on the use of lumber is another question. Other substances are being substituted for wooden material in many ways. Millions of feet are still used annually to make packing cases for shipping goods of various kinds, yet the requisition of lumber for this purpose has been greatly lessened by the employment of steel in collapsible cases, by the use of fibre board and corrugated paper. In building, steel and concrete beams are now employed where once wood was the only material and in many other industries something other than wood is called

Nurses at Baby Stations Boast That Omaha Infants Are an Extra Fine Lot

Places in Four Parts of City Open One Day Each Week.

Omaha has a particularly fine lot of babies, according to Miss Frieda Johnson, head nurse of the Visiting Nurses' baby stations, where those not feeling just right are made to feel that way.
The baby stations of Omaha conducted by the Visiting Nurses' association, put many a youngster on the road to good health. The stations are located in four different sections of the city and are opened during certain hours one day each week.
Mothers bring their tots to the stations for examination and when the infant is well, the mother is told how to keep it so; when it is sick, treatment in the home is supervised by the Visiting Nurses' association. When the baby needs hospital care the association sees that it is provided.
Dr. J. C. Moore is in charge of the station located at the Third Presbyterian church, Twentieth and Leavenworth streets, Monday; Dr. Newell Jones is in charge at the station in the church at Twenty-fifth and Decatur Tuesdays, and Dr. Andrew Dow at the Christ Child center at Seventh and William Thursdays. There is also a station located in the South Omaha City hall Wednesdays.



Baby Margaret Irene Gordon being inspected at the Visiting Nurses' association baby station in the Third Presbyterian church, at Twentieth and Leavenworth, by Miss Frieda Johnson, head nurse of the baby stations (standing) and checked up by Nurse L. A. Timm (sitting) seemed rather bored with the whole business. She gazed admiringly at her little pink toes during most of the performance.

upon for service. Yet the extension of industry is such that the demand on the forests is quite as much as can be safely met.
Students incline to the belief that a considerable portion of the lumber of the future will come from farm woodlots yet they are careful to point out that timber must not be looked upon as a crop, but as a mine. It has this distinction, however; while a mine is certainly depleted as its mineral content is recovered and put to use, lumbering may, under proper conditions, be removed from the category of perishing industries. In proof of this may be submitted the fir forests of the northwest, the greatest stand of timber in the world. At present the annual cut is a little less than half the amount that is replaced by new growth. In other words, the output of fir lumber could be doubled with no danger that it would in time exterminate the trees. Unfortunately, all lumbering operations are not carried on after this manner. Agreement between the government and the timber men may be reached, though, on a basis that will permit the restoration and preservation of the forests by limiting cuts to the amount of replacement by new growth. Only on a plan of this nature can the future of the lumber supply in America be made certain.
Transportation Rates Involved.
Another feature of the industry at present is that transportation rates are so high that a great deal of useful material is destroyed at the mills because it cannot be shipped at a profit. Millions of feet of "seconds" and "culls" go to feed the never-ending fires at the big saw mills of the northwest. The timber might well be used for corncobs, barn

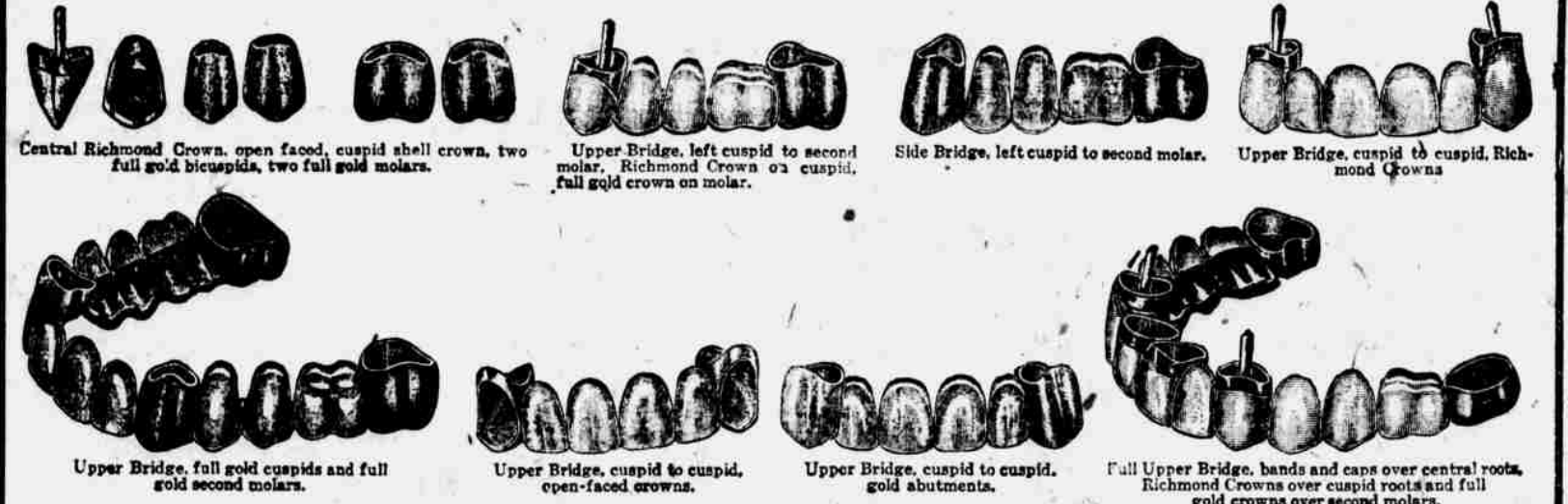
as could be wished. Soft, quick growing varieties have had preference over the more useful sort. This can be remedied by making better choice in future, and by replacing some of the standing trees with others that may not grow as rapidly but which are worth a great deal more when they are grown.
Should Replant Sand Hills.
All of this connects up with the proposal that the sand hill region be taken in hand and treated to a covering of trees. Useful varieties of pine and cedar will thrive in those regions that now are bare and to a large extent unproductive. Along with the tree growth will come grasses, and the grazing industry will be fostered by the extension of available pasturage. The one great difficulty in the way is to get the people to understand what an asset they have in the sand hill region. The soil of that section, light though it is, is wonderfully fertile, and in days to come should be made profitably productive. This time can be hastened by the application of means easily within the grasp of the present. What the final outlay of money will be is not so much a factor to be considered as to how much will be required to make the start. It must take the form of a continuing effort, protected from service on pensions, over their protests.
The success of the project depends on care extending over a long period of years. The certainty of a return is the incentive that should urge a beginning. When the legislature meets next winter the project ought to be presented as a way which will obtain the needed attention. A committee to make an examination and recommend a plan may be the solution. But Nebraska ought to set about the important work of developing this great project.

Chicago Postal Employees Are Retired on Pensions
Chicago, Aug. 21.—One hundred thirty-five Chicago postoffice employees were retired from service on pensions, over their protests.
Chief among those retired are Gen. J. E. Stuart, chief postoffice inspector, who served 40 years here, and John M. Hubbard, assistant postmaster, who for years has been the official Santa Claus to children who wrote their patron saint in care of the postoffice.

27th Division Reunion Scheduled for Sept. 12-14
New York, Aug. 20.—The first reunion of the 27th division, which was to be held on the anniversary of the battle of the Hindenburg lines September 27 to 30, will be held at Saratoga Springs on September 12 to 14 instead.
The change in dates is made to avoid a conflict with the dates of the national convention of the American Legion at Cleveland, September 27 to 29.

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Dr. Clark has just returned from Cincinnati, where he has taken a post graduate course in mechanical dentistry.

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\$2.25 36-in. Black Chiffon Taffeta.....	\$1.79	\$2.50 36-in. Black Messaline.....	\$1.98
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The best Domestic Macaroni, Spaghetti or Egg Noodles, per 5-lb. can, bottle Fancy Queen Olives for..... 25c
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Large Java Pure Fruit Preserves for..... 35c
No. 1 extra Fancy Table Antic acid or Peaches..... 20c
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16-oz. cans Carolina Milk..... 11c
16-oz. cans Nestle's or Wilcox Milk for..... 14c
6-oz. cans Fat of Carnation Milk..... 14c
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Big Tomatoes for..... 12 1/2c
No. 2 cans Solid Pack Tomatoes..... 16c
No. 2 cans Solid Pack Tomatoes..... 16c
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