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Nature Will Meet Forest Reseeding Problem If Man Controls Flames

It would take 13 billion trees to replant the 26 million acres of commercial forests in the Douglas fir region of western Oregon and Washington at the rate of 500 trees per acre.

It would cost \$520 million to undertake this monumental reforestation job at the rate of labor and nursery-raised tree seedlings.

Fortunately for the forest products industries dependent upon wood from these forests for their raw products, Mother Nature has automatically taken care of this mighty reforestation job during the 125 years that man has been harvesting the forests of these two states.

At least ninety percent of all logged lands come back into timber from natural reseeding, according to W. D. Hagenstein, chief forester for the Pacific Northwest forest industries.

Human Labor Helps

Forester Hagenstein says that while Mother Nature is our "chief forester," man has given a helping hand on occasion with artificial reforestation. Private forest owners as far back as 1893 re-

planted logged lands where seed trees failed to do the job. Those forests of cottonwood on Willamette river islands are now being cut.

Hagenstein estimates that private land owners, state and federal governments combined in the past 50 years have hand-planted about 120 million nursery-raised trees on some 240,000 acres in the Douglas fir region.

During that same period nature has reseeded billions of baby trees. Nature's process is simple. Seed trees grow cones which open up in the hot, dry fall months and winds wait the seeds into fertile ground where tiny seedlings take root. Man has undertaken in recent years a direct seeding plan of his own using helicopters to fly just above non-stocked land and drop seed in an even pattern. Rodent baiting is necessary to keep mice from eating all the seeds.

The forester warned that Mother Nature will take care of most of our reseeded problems if man will keep fire controlled.

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Use A-Bomb If Truce Talks End, U.S. Urged

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Rep. Brooks (D-La.) called today for use of the atomic bomb in Korea if the Communists definitely end the Kaesong cease-fire talks.

Brooks, acting chairman of the house armed services committee, told a reporter that if the talks break down completely "this country should not hesitate to use every weapon it has, including the atomic bomb."

Candid Forestry by FISHER



FOR ENDLESS CENTURIES, HERE IN THE WESTERN FORESTS OF DOUGLAS FIR IN WESTERN OREGON AND WASHINGTON, CROPS OF TREES HAVE GROWN BIG AND TALL, THEN DIED OF OLD AGE, ROTTED AND FALLEN DOWN, NATURE ALWAYS RESEEDED THE LAND. TODAY MAN HARVESTS THE TREES, WHEN THEY ARE MATURE, USING PRECIOUS WOOD FOR HOUSES, SCHOOLS, CLOTHING, PAPER, AND HUNDREDS OF NEEDS. SEED TREES ARE LEFT AFTER LOGGING AND NATURE RESEEDS MOST OF ALL LANDS, JUST AS SHE HAS DONE FROM TIME WITHOUT END.

Chinchillas Are Becoming Large Livestock Industry

By HAL BOYLE

ST. PAUL, Minn. — (AP) — Does your wife want a new fur coat?

Well, tell her to grow her own. All it takes is a couple of chinchillas and a little time — say five to ten years. Then she should have enough chinchillas to make herself a fur coat that sold for \$30,000 a generation ago.

Raising chinchillas today is one of America's fastest growing livestock industries.

Some 5,000 people in the United States and Canada now are breeding the furry little herds for fun or profit. All you need to start with is a pair of chinchillas in love, and they sell anywhere from \$800 to \$1,650 a pair.

Dale Mathews, 23, an army veteran who was graduated this year from the University of Minnesota, is a typical chinchilla rancher.

"When I got out of the army in 1947 I had saved up some money," he said. "It was a question with me of investing it or spending it on clothes and a new car. In May of 1948 I bought a pair of chinchillas for \$1,400."

Dale now has a herd of 12 of the valuable pearl gray little animals, and recently sold a pair that got him back his original investment.

"In ten years I should have a stock herd of 200 or 300, not counting others I expect to sell," he said. "I intend to raise them as a sideline only, but they can be made into a real business. There are people now making \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year from them."

Chinchillas, natives of the Andes mountains, were hunted almost to extinction by 1919, when their pelts rose to \$185. In 1923 M. F. Chapman, a mining man, succeeded in bringing 11 to this country. Most of the 50,000 to 60,000 chinchillas now in this country stem from his small herd.

"It will take another seven years before the chinchilla fur market develops," Mathews said. "The industry needs 500,000 to 1,000,000 pelts a year before it can really get going."

But raising the hardy little animals — they only weigh about a pound — is no trouble. "It costs only about \$3 a year to feed one," he said. "And a man can easily take care of 100 pairs and still carry on a full time job."

What makes chinchilla fur prized is its fabulously soft texture. Only one hair grows in a human follicle; 60 to 70 sprout from a chinchilla follicle. The pearl gray rodents look like a cross between a small rabbit and a white mouse. They eat grain pellets and vegetables, are nocturnal, friendly and monogamous. Mama bosses the family.

"If you put another female in with a mated pair," said Mathews, "the wife immediately starts a fight with her. She doesn't want her in the same pen."

The chinchillas mate — usually for life — at six months, have one to three litters a year, and live to be ten to twelve.

"They are vermin-free and odorless, and about the only disease they ever get is constipation," said Mathews. "Usually you can cure it with one raisin."

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Wed., Aug. 29, 1951 — The News-Review, Roseburg, Ore. 9

Synthetic Rubber Price Upped By Government

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The government, which has a monopoly on synthetic rubber production, has raised the price of general purpose synthetic rubber by one and one half cents or approximately six percent. Its new selling price to industry is 26 cents a pound.

Since about 10 or 11 pounds of this rubber is used in making an auto tire, the price hike should add about 15 to 16 1/2 cents per tire to the makers' costs. It could lead to greater retail price increases if tire makers pass along their added costs.

The price boost was announced by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which sells the synthetic rubber to industry, after the Office of Price Stabilization gave its permission. RFC said the increase "will take effect with September deliveries."

RFC administrator Stuart Symington explained that the price hike was made necessary because the government is expanding pro-

WOMEN JURORS OKAYED

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A bill to permit women to serve as jurors in Hawaii was approved by the house interior committee.

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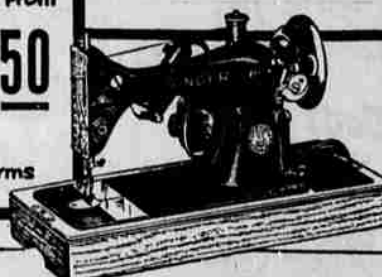
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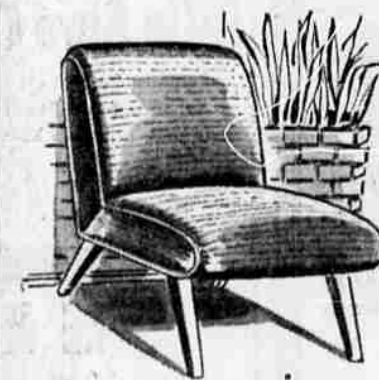
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