

## THE VALUE OF FORESTS OTHER THAN FOR LUMBER

The Argus during the Coming Weeks will Present a Series of Interesting and Informative Articles on Industries Which were prepared as Compositions in the Commercial Department of the Ontario High School.

By Francis Rieder

Forests are one of the great aids of civilization. Aside from furnishing building materials through the ages, the forests have furnished fuel and were the home of most of the food to be cooked over, said fuel, namely game animals and fowls. Being responsible for the rivers they are indirectly responsible for fresh water fish.

The forests of today are tonic to many a nervous, weary business man or woman who can find time to spend a few weeks in them in the summer. Something about the forests seems to appeal to an inborn sense in all persons so that time spent there in search of rest is never wasted. Forests are a valuable asset to any city, county, state or country; not merely for the timber they contain, but for the great play-grounds they afford. Man where he has destroyed the forests, and the places are many, goes immediately to work (as soon as he rests from his destruction) to create parks or play grounds, and these play grounds are invariably planted in some trees at the very outset. Perhaps they say shade is necessary or the specie of tree is unique in this vicinity, but back of it all lies the inherent love of the forest.

Forests influence the climate of any and every country. Trees in any quantity act as huge condensers of rain. They regulate the temperature somewhat in that evaporation from the leaves lowers the temperature in summer. In winter, acting as a wind break, they tend to raise the temperature, or at least prevent it from being lowered, by sheltering the country from the wind.

Much of the land on the shores of the Baltic is protected in this manner. A century ago they were nearly untenable because of the violence of the wind. Nothing would grow, the winters were unbearably cold, and the houses were built in the lee of the hill to keep the wind from uprooting them. Pines were planted some eighty years ago, acres and acres; miles and miles of them, and whole sections in the lee of them have become good farm lands. Sands have been checked in their drifting and the wind, even in the open stretches is not so severe because of the trees. The forests are matured now and some lumber is being cut.

A vast amount of timber is necessary to the existence of rivers of any size. Without timber around its source a river is subject to floods in the spring or in rainy seasons, and in the summer or dry seasons it is very apt to be nothing but a dry channel. Floods are very expensive as they destroy large amounts of property and life. A flood is always followed by low water, and low water is just as expensive to commerce and to agriculture in an irrigated country, causing as it does crop failures and famine. Deforested lands, unless immediately farmed are lost to the use of man forever. If the section is hilly as in the Southern United States, it is soon stripped of its soil and the valleys are flooded with silt and boulders. If the deforested lands are more level and there is less rainfall all vegetation dies from lack of moisture heretofore stored in the forests. Unless in a very humid climate, vegetation depends to a great extent upon the moisture held over from the winter snows; and nothing can do this as well as the forests. The thick mat of vegetation on the forest floor, and the thick mat of roots below the ground serves as an immense sponge which, protected from the heat of summer by the tree tops, feeds the springs and rivers, and incidentally the vegetation of the surrounding country.

Deforestation can be combated only by replanting of scientific lumbering. Expensive reservoirs to conserve the water wasted in the spring floods take the place of forests as far as the water is concerned, but the deforested land is still unproductive. In all countries where forests are absent, vast sections have deteriorated into waste land with all water running off in a few hours or days and carrying much of the soil with it, while the rivers of yesterday form dry ravines through the summer months.

In the southern, central and northern sections of the United States there are large areas cut over and burned. Where the land was hills as in the South, mile after mile of land has been washed

bare of soil, bedrock is laid bare and the country is impassable to roads and of no economic value whatever.

In the North and Central sections where it is not so hot and not so hilly and the forests were rather brushy to start with, the deforested land has grown up to valueless brush and timber with no chance of its ever being valuable as lumber because of the varieties of tree. This land, tho not as bad as that in the South, will be harder to reclaim as farm land than the original forest would have been. But this land is increasing in fertility through the influence of scrub forests.

China has cut most of her timber and is suffering for it, too. The floods of the Hwangho could be stopped by planting forests around its source. As it is the lack of forests is robbing the upland of their soil and wasting it by the lavish deposits dropped in the broad valley. While these valleys are very fertile, their fertility is never used. It is always covered up by fresh deposits of silt.

Greece also is suffering because its forests were not properly cared for. The mountain regions now bare of timber, afford only a precarious living for a few sheep.

The forests, too, are the homes of many trees, the products of which are of great importance. Turpentine, tar and resin, the so-called Naval stores are the most important by-products in the United States. Turpentine is a product derived from the sap of the Southern White and other varieties of the long leafed pine, by distillation. The residue is tar and rosin. The trees are tapped much in the same manner of maple trees, and in the course of several years bleed themselves to death.

Camphor, another important forest product was originally produced in China, but because of the demand and the backwardness of the Chinese people, large plantations of the camphor producing trees have been planted elsewhere, mainly in Ceylon and Florida. Camphor is a whitish substance with a distinctive of tropical countries, but is widely known use, is as moth balls. However, its most important use is in the manufacture of celluloid, and high explosives. There is also some use for it in medicine.

The eucalyptus tree embraces a variety of so-called "gums" Blue gum, Black gum, etc. It is a native of tropical countries but is grown in California, Florida, and various malarial states of the Mississippi river valley. These trees grow very rapidly, acquiring a height of fifty feet in eight years, and have a very stately appearance. When mature they average around two hundred feet with one hundred to one hundred fifty feet to the first limb. In exceptional cases they have been found to measure 300. These trees are grown for shade trees and for an oil secured from their leaves, besides being used for piling and poles, telephone, power lines, etc. Their wood is very oily and durable. The oil is of such a quality as to make the pilings practically immune from marine borers. In the South they are planted as a remedy for malaria, but the scientists say its merits lay in the fact that so much water is evaporated from its leaves that it has a tendency to dry up malarial swamps.

Rubber is another very important product of tropical forests, mainly from Brazil and islands of the Indian ocean.

In South America (Southern Brazil and Argentina) there grows a tree (Quebracho) called the quebracho, which contains about 2% tannin. They are put through a process which removes the tannin from the bark, trunk and limbs. Large mills have been erected, which on account of rather cheap labor, is a big business. The quebracho is of a greater density than water, so cannot be cut in the rainy season which is just the opposite of conditions in North America where all lumbering is done in winter. The tannin produced from this tree is, however, of a very inferior quality, making a poor grade of leather unless combined with some other tanning agent.

Tanbark is usually gotten from hemlock or oak, hemlock in the north and oak in the south. The tanning industry is thus responsible for the destruction of a great amount of timber. Thousands of acres, millions of board feet of hemlock and oak in the United States alone have been cut and merely

# ONTARIO'S NEW INFANT INDUSTRY

THE Ontario Laundry purchased the Modern Pressary Oct. 15, 1921. Since that time the cleaning has been sent out of town, pending the completion of our new cleaning plant. We "threw in the switch" January 30th, and the wheels of new and modern machinery in a new fire-proof building, started turning.

This is Malheur County's first and only **REAL** Dry Cleaning Plant. With your support and encouragement it will, as the Ontario Laundry has done, keep home money at home and bring in outside trade that will mean more local people on our pay roll. We will feature **ODORLESS DRY CLEANING**. Try our work--smell it--Look at the Linings. **BOOST!**

## ONTARIO LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING WORKS

EVERYBODY-CLEANS-WITH-RAIN-WATER-JONES

## BE A BOOSTER for Your HOME TOWN

In other words patronize home industry, and make your home town what it should be. Sending your money out of town for products made in your home city will not get you anywhere, is the sentiment so insistently taught us by the Commercial Club of our city.

**HERE IS A PERTINENT QUESTION —**  
If WE trade out of town, and YOU trade out of town, what is going to become of OUR TOWN and OUR COUNTY?

Manufacturing the products of our soil at home means that we keep the money at home, the producer can sell them at home, and spend the money at home, thereby increasing the patronage of all the business men at home.

Everyone you may meet will strongly advocate these sentiments and we commend them for it, but in actual practice they do not always carry them out.

### QUESTION

Do you use "MADE IN ONTARIO" Leader Flour? Nearly everyone in the city does, if you do not, ask your grocer to send you up a sack and try it. **NOTE THE FLOUR.**

## ONTARIO ROLLER MILLS

stripped of their bark when the wood itself contained a large per cent of tannin; but through ignorance was left to rot. Because of this there are now fifty species of plants gathered for their tannin, although oak and hemlock still furnish the bulk of tanbark.

Bamboo is the most universally used of all woods. It is the mainstay of the people of all tropical countries where it abounds. Japan especially depends on the bamboo for building material. It takes the place that cheap pine lumber holds in the United States, besides being used for a variety of things from a water bucket and storehouse to a fishing pole. Its leaves are used for the thatch of houses of all tropical countries, and large trunks are used for palisades.

Forests, then, are among the greatest economic assets of any country. Preserve the forests!

### LOCAL PERSONALS

Dr. R. E. Gornall of the National Workers of the Home Mission will speak Sunday evening at the Methodist church.

Rev. Henry Young of the Methodist Church and Rev. E. E. Martin of the Nazarine Church will change pulpits next Sunday morning.

Mrs. Sam Taylor, Jr. spent several days this week visiting in Weiser.

Miss Helen Donstone spent last week end in Boise.

Dr. R. O. Payne and Dick Robinson are in Vale this week attending the Hicks murder trial.

Mrs. J. H. Hawkins of Weiser visited in Ontario Saturday, the guest of the Misses Elsie and Nellie Morris.

John Brutzman left Tuesday for Lewiston to attend the conference of the managers of the chain of 40 Hub stores.

There will be a pie-social Saturday evening in the Oddfellows hall All Rebekahs, Oddfellows, relatives and friends are invited.

Rev. Henry Young left Wednesday for Boise, to attend the District Convention of Methodist Ministers.