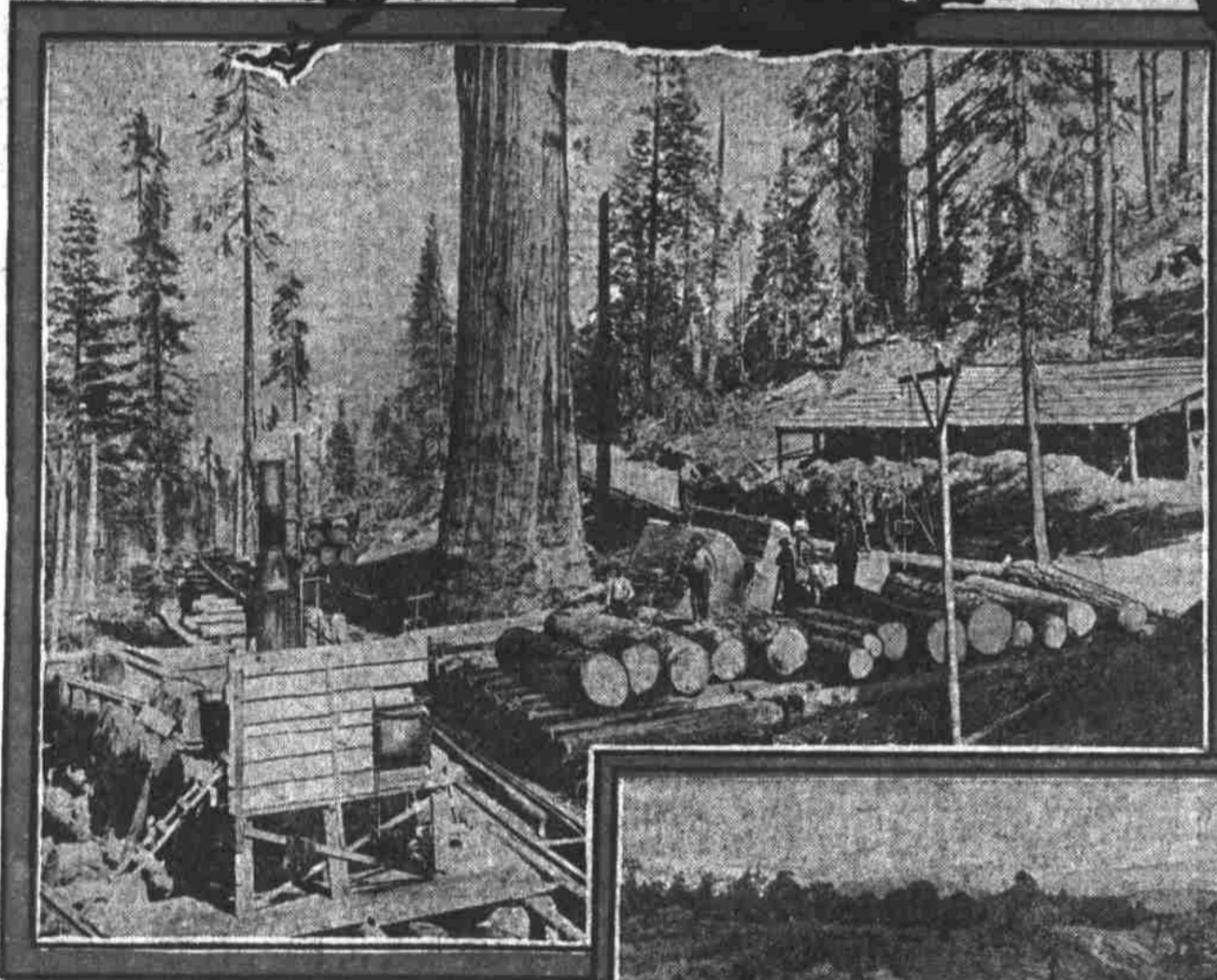


A TREELESS LAND in TWENTY YEARS



Gifford Pinchot, Chief of U.S. Forest Service

ernment does not control one-fifth of the timber supply. The forest service will endeavor to secure the money and power to extend the service, and will push the work of reforesting the denuded timber lands. But it is utterly beyond the possibility of the service to meet the situation and prevent serious trouble. One hope entertained is the Appalachian forest. An effort will be made to promote the growth there. "There is a changing sentiment throughout the country. People are beginning to see that the right to use resources does not carry with it the right to destroy them. The forest service



Wrecking a California forest

Uncle Sam May Be as Bald as His Eagle When This Generation is Old

A TREELESS LAND in twenty years—Uncle Sam to be as bald as his eagle within the passing of a single generation.

It sounds like a national nightmare—yet it is as true as any prophecy that has ever been made on the basis of a strictly scientific and mathematical calculation.

No man, unless he was born that way or carried the troubles inherent in the care of millions, ever goes entirely bald. And no land that hasn't started out on the basis of a Sahara or is not exploited by lumber barons ever becomes quite treeless.

But a thoroughly miserable condition of general depilation can be very speedily attained by the man who hasn't a care in his head for the hair that's on top of it; and a very complete condition of bareness can be spread over any country within twenty years by a nation that is working as hard at deforestation as the American people are working just now.

The deprivation, the want, the hunger, which are the forerunners of all famines, are already upon us. The famine which will be upon us in twenty years is already staring in at our inviting door.

Gifford Pinchot, the national forester, foremost of Americans in staring back into the famine's appalling eyes, now tells us something of its hideous aspects.

Woodman, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough,
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.—Morriss.

THE generation which has doomed the country's trees, the generation which has most mercilessly hacked them off the land, is the generation that most sentimentally spouted those too familiar lines among the heroics of its school days.

And, too, it is the generation whose Governors, for the first time since the forming of the nation, but recently responded, together with other prominent men of the land, to the call of the President for a conference, aiming to retrieve some of the well-nigh irretrievable losses entailed by our national wastefulness.



Old Method of Turpentine Gathering that Has Done Great Damage in Georgia.

This conference, which held the attention of the nation for three days, was called to deal entirely with the subject of conserving our national resources.

That conference of governors and others, wholly unprecedented, was an equally desperate endeavor to find some way by which the nation's remaining resources could be conserved. Men like Carnegie, Harriman and James J. Hill, Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, and John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers, joined in with leading state executives in efforts to suggest ways and means for joint action by the states and the national government.

Of all the resources whose exhaustion is most imminent, with consequences most wide-



An Exhibit in the Case—Ruins of a Colorado Forest

spread attaching to that exhaustion, none surpassed in importance the nation's timber. For upon the timber depends not only countless industries—many of them employing Americans by the hundred thousand—but the water courses of the land, with their alternating droughts and floods; the inland water-borne transportation and vital features of our commerce with peoples abroad, and the very fertility of the land itself.

So important appeared the questions relating to the natural resources of the country, and so imminent the dangers menacing those industries, that the Governors named a committee to form a permanent organization to conserve the great natural heritage of the nation, as well as to deal with other public questions arising from time to time and affecting the relation of state and nation. But of all the subjects discussed at the White House during that memorable May gathering, no need of the day was dwelt upon with greater force and insistence than the need of fostering our forests.

For years the voice of Gifford Pinchot cried out amid an ever-spreading wilderness, while lumber thieves and railway pirates looted the land of forests that would enrich European kingdoms; stole homestead lots great enough in the aggregate to make other kingdoms, and prepared themselves for America's Senate or America's jails—and sometimes for both—according to the extent to which their piracies should find them out.

But, in the end, he has made for himself a position where his hand can stay some of the axes and where his voice can be heard by all of the people.

Here is the bitter gist of what he has to say: The absolute and reckless disregard of the sentiment, so grandly uttered by the boys who are the men of today, has already converted that insincere, unselfish sentiment into the direct, most urgent expression of our need for self-preservation. In slaying our trees, we are slaying ourselves—by flood, by storm, by drought, by heat, by cold and by hunger.

DANGER IS GREAT

"In twenty years," said Mr. Pinchot, "the timber supply in the United States on government reserves and private holdings, at the present rate of cutting, will be exhausted, although it is possible that the growth of that period might defer the arrival of the famine another five years."

"Danger of the situation should not be underestimated. The United States uses more timber than any other country, and every man, woman and child will be affected."

"About one-fifth of the forest area of the country is in government reserves; but, as privately owned timber lands are better than the government reserves, as a general rule, the gov-

will make additional efforts to educate the people.

"Only a little time—only a very little time—has passed since those who were dealing with the greatest pine region ever lumbered—the forests in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota—declared them inexhaustible."

"Exactly the same language is being used now with regard to the great forests of the Pacific slope. And yet the white pine is so nearly gone that 25 per cent. less wood was cut last year than was cut in 1906."

"The limit has come to these 'inexhaustible resources.' Not only are the forests as a whole being depleted, but some of the most important are already gone."

VAST BARREN WASTES

"Consider the great northeastern pine belt. Today barren, worthless wastes replace millions of acres of what were once the richest, most valuable timber lands to be found on the continent, except, possibly, certain lands on the Pacific coast."

"For years past more money has been paid by the state of Michigan to advertise for sale lands that were enormously valuable while the white pine was on them than the lands are now worth according to the prices received in the sales. Instead of being almost the most productive timber lands in North America, those vast tracts are now absolute deserts, pauperized, beggars, a charge upon the state."

It is a fearful picture that the national forester presents of the years of the famine that is to come—that is already at hand.

"With absolute certainty, a very severe timber famine is approaching—indeed, is already beginning to be felt. The business disturbances of last year interrupted, for a little time, the rapid rise in the price of lumber; but that rise must begin again, and soon."

"The forest service has demonstrated that we use 100,000,000,000 feet of lumber a year; and we have only 2,000,000,000,000 feet of timber in existence. No nation in the world depends upon its trees as we do; Europe gets along with 60 feet per person; we use 450 feet. We are over sevenfold more dependent."

"Every man, woman and child in the United States is going to feel the famine. There is no industry, no corporation, no individual, no form of activity in our life which can escape being affected by the size and condition of the forests."

A timber famine is not a famine of timber alone. It is also a water famine, a food famine—even a transportation famine. In Idaho, whole counties have been depopulated because the mountains, robbed of their trees, let the lowlands lie in desert. In China, vast provinces are annually the field of battle between the people.

(CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGE)