

FREE TIMBER NATIONAL FORESTS

Uncle Sam Gave Out in One Year 264,000 Cords; It Was Worth 64 Cents a Cord—Present Timber Areas—Reforestation.

Washington, Jan. 9.—During the fiscal year ending June 30 the United States for the service of settlers in the neighborhood of national forests in western states over 264,000 cords of timber, under which the government received free about 264,000 cords of firewood, posts, poles and sawlogs, worth \$159,320, or about 64 cents per cord in the forest—a low valuation.

Besides this the different states received for school and road purposes 25 per cent of the income from the national forests, amounting last year to \$447,044. The direct return to the states in lieu of taxes on the 147,000,000 acres, the easement of the timberland in the national forests amounted to \$159,320, or about 64 cents per cord in the forest—a low valuation.

In 1907 the total of "free use" material and money paid over amounted to about \$254,400. The increase of the amount given to the states from 10 per cent to 25 per cent is of course largely responsible for the large return in 1929, but even had this percentage not been changed a good increase would have been shown, despite the demoralization of the lumber business caused by the financial flurry. In fact, this increase may be looked for up to many times the present amount, as the demand for timber increases and the forests are developed more and more.

Present Timber Conditions.
Few people have anything like a clear idea of the amount of forest wealth left in this country. Those who think at all about this natural resource, which has assisted in material development since the landing of the first settlers, are usually too much influenced by the condition of that particular state or section in which they are most familiar.

If there were a much more uniform distribution of the country's timber supply, it is even more limited than is actually the case. On the other hand, with those whose homes are located in a section where a pinch in timber has not been experienced the feeling is likely to be altogether the other way, and some become so indifferent at times as to think that there is no timber problem. Both can profit by a reading of the actual facts.

The forests of the United States now cover about 550,000,000 acres, or about one fourth of the land of the whole country. The original forests covered nearly 1,000,000,000 acres or nearly one half.

The forests owned by the government cover one fourth of the total forest area, and contain one fifth of all timber standing. Forests privately owned cover three fourths of the area, and contain four fifths of the standing timber. Besides having three times the area and four times the forests the timberland privately owned is generally more valuable.

Better for Society.
Forestry, or conservative lumbering, is practiced on 70 per cent of the forests publicly owned, and on less than 1 per cent of the forests privately owned. This covers the country's forest resources as they stand today. Senator Smoot, chairman of the section of forests of the National Conservation commission, in outlining the plan of the conservation of the forests, said:

"By reasonable thrift we can produce a constant timber supply beyond our present need, and with it the confidence of our future. The conservation of the forests of the section of forests of the National Conservation commission, in outlining the plan of the conservation of the forests, said:

"Under right management our forests will yield over four times as much lumber as they do now. We can reduce waste in the woods and in the mill at least one third, with present methods. The conservation of the forests of the section of forests of the National Conservation commission, in outlining the plan of the conservation of the forests, said:

"We shall suffer for timber to meet our needs until our forests are had time to grow again. But if we act wisely and at once we shall escape permanent timber scarcity."

Battleships Leave Port Said.

(United Press Leased Wire.)
Port Said, Jan. 9.—The battleships Nebraska and Rhode Island left today for Marselles, the battleship Ohio going to Greece. The vessels will remain at Port Said until soon be loaded and will shortly begin a series of visits.

Piano Tuning and Repairing

Our Tuning and Repair Department has for years been the finest on the coast, as the great increase in business will attest.

Surrounded as we are by a thoroughly trained corps of tuners, polishers and repair men, the quality of our work has always met with enthusiastic approval at all hands.

Under our annual tuning contract thousands of pianos of various makes have been carefully tuned and cared for during the past year.

Let us explain to you how our tuning contract at \$5.50 a year will save you money, insure your piano always being in tune, and, best of all, prevent its depreciating in value.

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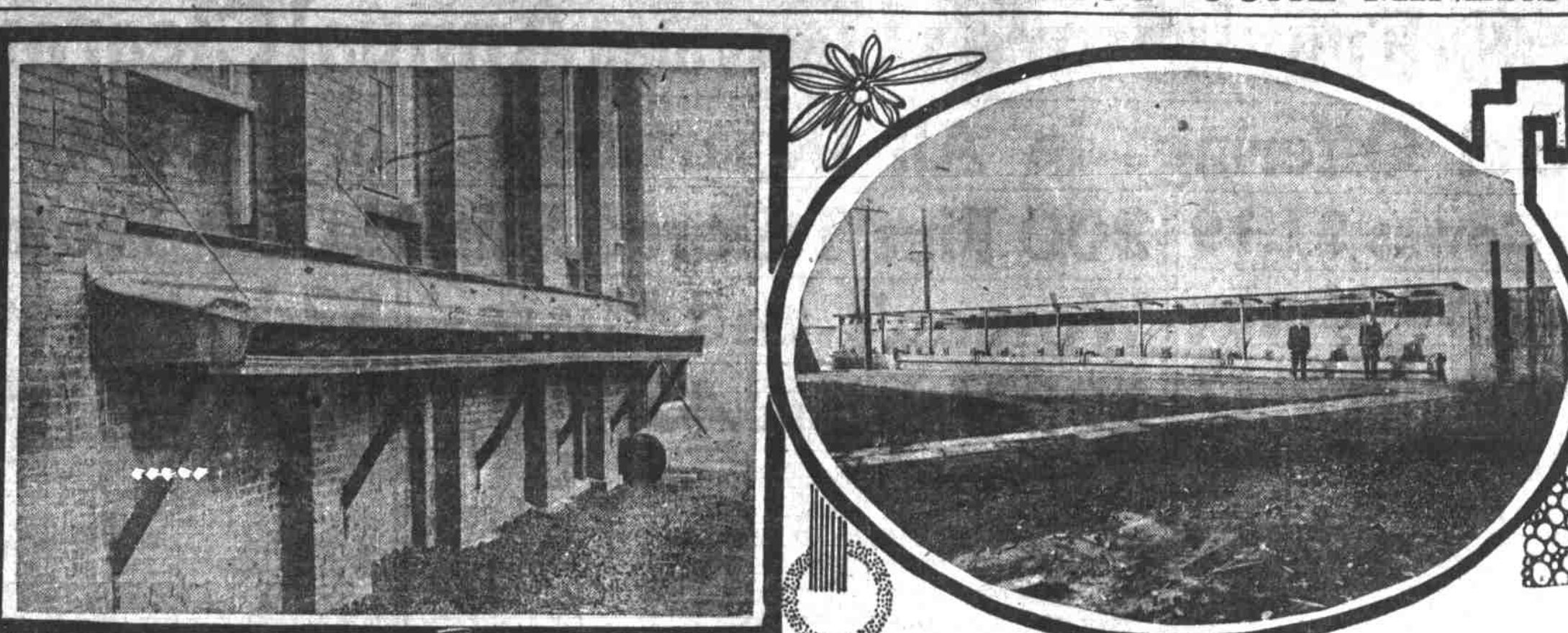
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GOVERNMENT MAKES TEST TO PROTECT COAL MINERS



On the left is a view of the explosives chamber, showing port holes at side. On the right is the observation house. Miners stand behind this protection and watch explosives of coal dust and fire damp in explosives gallery 60 feet away.

In its efforts to stop the appalling loss of life in the coal mines of the country, the United States government is meeting with much success. For several months an experiment station, under the direction of the Technological Branch of the United States Geological Survey, has been in operation at Pittsburgh, Pa., with the object of discovering the causes of mine disasters and suggesting a remedy.

Along with the establishment of this station and the agitation which preceded the necessary legislation, there has been a falling off in the number of deaths in the coal mines for the year 1929, and while the official figures have not yet been obtained, it is stated that the number of deaths will be several hundred less than in 1927, which was an unusual year. In December, 1927, four explosions took the lives of 1700 men, one of them at the Monongah mine in West Virginia—being the greatest mining disaster in the history of this country. There were 356 victims. During 1929, there were but two accidents in which the loss of life was heavy; one in January at the Hanna mine, in Wyoming, and another in November at the Marianna mine, in Pennsylvania, which resulted in 115 deaths.

Already at the experiment station two discoveries have been made which will tend to decrease the number of deaths in the mines. It has been demonstrated that a number of the so-called "safety" explosives are anything but safe, and in fact are dangerous to the miners. The present explosives used in mining, the miner takes his life in his hand.

Every effort is being made at the station to come as close to the conditions in a mine as possible. The tests of various dynamites and powders used in blasting—coal are being made in a mammoth boiler plate cylinder which has previously been filled with gas or coal dust. The cylinder is 100 feet long and six feet in diameter. Safety valves have been placed all along the top and are left unfastened in such manner that whenever there is an explosion the valves fly open on their hinges. A series of portholes on the side, covered with one-half-inch glass, enables those conducting the experiment to witness the results from an observation house 60 feet away. An explosive mixture of fire damp and air, or coal dust and air, is pumped into the cylinder and the explosive which is to be tested is shot into it from one end of the cylinder, so that the flame goes right into the fire damp or coal dust.

It is used at this station for fire damp, because it corresponds very closely to this deadly gas. The cannon in which the explosives are placed is fired by electricity from the observation house which is parallel with the cylinder itself.

Waste of Coal.
These investigations are expected to accomplish a double purpose; not only a reduction in the number of men killed in the mines, but also a saving of the waste in mining coal. The use of improper explosives, as well as the improper use of suitable explosives, results annually in the waste of great amounts of coal. The use of too high

charges in blasting, or the use of unnecessarily violent explosives, shatters much good coal, converting fuel into dust which may itself be explosive and become productive of much further damage. Such explosions often loosen the roof of a coal mine, which may fall later, to be wasted, or productive of fatal accidents.

In addition to the actual experiments in testing explosives, important experiments are being made in rescue work. One part of the station has been fitted up as a miniature coal mine. This is a large glass enclosed, air tight room, which contains difficult passages such as are found in coal mines. There are also various obstructions similar to what would be found in a mine after it had been wrecked by an explosion; also dummies weighing 150 to 200 pounds, representing asphyxiated miners.

Trying Out Helmet.
This room is filled with deadly gas and a rescue corps of men who are being trained in the work enter daily, clad in helmets which supply them with oxygen while they work. The men remain in this chamber for two hours, removing obstructions, picking up the dummies, placing them on stretchers and carrying them away. There is also in the room a machine which records the amount of work a man may be expected to do while wearing one of these helmets. One half of the large building in which this rescue room is located is used as an auditorium and several hundred miners and operators have watched the rescue drill through the large glass

windows which separate the auditorium from the gas filled chamber. Although there has been but little opportunity so far for the rescue corps to demonstrate its efficiency at the mines, still it has done some good work.

Once the helmeted men while fighting a mine fire succeeded in bringing an unconscious man to a place of safety, where he was given oxygen treatment and recovered his senses in a short time.

Urged to Organize.
It is not the intention of the United States government to furnish rescue corps whenever there is a disaster. The present corps was organized with the idea of encouraging the mine owners and miners themselves to form such organizations. Invitations have been issued to operators throughout the country to send picked men to the experiment station, where they may watch the government rescuers at work and later go through the same training themselves, in order that they may gain the necessary confidence in the use of these helmets. Already a number of the large mining companies have taken advantage of this invitation and are organizing rescue corps at their mines, fully equipped with oxygen helmets.

In 1927, more than 3125 men were killed in the coal mines of the country—a death rate of 4.86 for every 1000 men employed. This is from three to four times as many men per thousand as are killed in any coal producing country of Europe, where experiments such as the one in Pittsburgh have been in operation for several years.

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