

PREVENTION OF FOREST FIRE A NECESSARY ECONOMIC STEP HARDING SHOWS IMPORTANCE

The lumber business of this country is being burned out slowly, but surely, according to a statement given out by the forest service, United States department of agriculture. The significance of what is happening to the industry and what it means to the people is hardly yet appreciated. If lumber was a product dug out of the ground and not renewable, there could be nothing done about it except to use the remaining supplies with the utmost economy. Lumber, however, is a product of forest trees

which can be grown as are other products of the soil.

The lumber industry is dependent for raw material upon forest trees of large size. Nature replaces the trees removed from a forest by natural reproduction—from seed and sprouts—provided forest fires do not destroy the young growth. That is just the trouble—forest fires get the young growth.

There are more than 300,000,000 acres of forest land in the United States from which a part or all of the

merchantable timber has been cut and on which forest fires have destroyed to a greater or less degree the young trees. Forest devastation has caused the lumber industry to migrate successively from New England to the lake states, and to the south, and now the center of production is shifting to the northwest, meaning another increase in the freight haul. If the young growth had been protected when and after the lands were logged, such long hauls would be unnecessary and lumber prices would be lower.

Nor does the community gain anything in place of the lumber industry when it moves on, as a rule. The wealth-producing activities of logging and lumber manufacture are not succeeded by other activities if the land is not agricultural. Not only is lumber needed in abundance and as cheap as possible, but the timber-growing states need the industry as well.

Idle land produces no wealth and employs no labor. Throughout the east and the north, where once were great forests which supported a thriving lumber industry, are now millions of acres of idle land, swept by fire year after year. The same history is being repeated in the south and will, unless preventive measures are taken, be repeated in the forested areas on the other side of the great plains.

All of our country is not a garden spot. A very limited portion of the forest land can ever be made into farms, orchards or pasture. Deserted farms in every state in the east and millions of idle acres attest the truth of this statement. If further proof were needed, the experience of the older European countries furnish it in abundance.

All of this has come about because the American people have been careless with a great resource—not in its use so much as in its care. Cut-over forest land, if protected from fire, will continue to grow trees of commercial quality. The right practice of forestry will greatly increase the yield and the profits, but the big factor in the present situation is the prevalence of forest fires—destruction which can and must be stopped.

Statistics show that in the five-year period, from 1916 to 1920, over 56,000,000 acres of forest land were burned over, causing a damage approximated at \$85,000,000, and 81,000,000 acres of land which formerly grew commercial forests in the

PLEDGES ROAD IMPROVEMENT

DISTRICT ENGINEER SAYS THAT
LARGE SUM CAN BE SAVED,
HOWEVER, BY WAITING UNTIL
RAINY SEASON IN FALL.

By the expenditure of some \$20,000, the section of The Dalles-Calfornia highway between Bend and the north county line could be made a veritable boulevard this summer, but instead of this, the highway commission will wait until the beginning of the fall rains, and do the work for comparatively nothing, declared J. H. Scott, engineer in charge of highway work in nine counties in Central and eastern Oregon, on his arrival in Bend yesterday.

Mr. Scott has heard some criticism over the width of some of the fills on this particular stretch of road, but he pointed out that contractors had been paid by the cubic yard, not by the width of road. Wherever the highway is narrow, it will be brought to the proper width, he said.

"The commission is showing no favoritism," he emphasized. "This part of the highway will be brought just as near to perfection as it is possible for us to do. All that we ask is a little patience."

United States are now waste. These lands will, in the main, produce nothing of commercial value if not replanted to forests. Much of the 300,000,000 acres damaged by forest fires will even now reproduce naturally if fires are kept out.

The time for action has come. Our forests are being destroyed four times as fast as nature is growing them. The forest fire is the arch enemy, which must be stopped. Stopping forest fires, according to Colonel W. B. Greeley, chief forester of the United States department of agriculture, will solve 80 per cent of our forest problems. It will restore our lumber industry, supported by the production of lands now wholly unproductive, create new wealth, and supply to the people at reasonable cost the lumber so badly needed.

So urgent has this problem become that President Harding has designated the week from May 22 to 28 as Forest Protection week, for the purpose of calling public attention to this big internal problem.

Water-Finder Finds Minerals.

A reader in Dorset, Vt., writes that he is a water-finder. He uses a forked stick but can not explain what power causes it to point downward when he is passing over water. Not only can he locate water, but by placing a small piece of lead in the end of the stick he is able to find lead when under the ground, once locating a buried pipe for a farmer. He can also locate copper.—Montreal Herald.

Kongo Diamonds.

There are diamond fields in the Belgian Congo which in 1910 produced 200,000 carats, and it is estimated that the field will yield about this quantity annually in the future.

BLOOMERETTES FOR LITTLE GIRLS PLAY



Dorothy's suffragette mother figured it out. So here it is, done in mercerized poplin with Harding Blue collar which is outlined and finished in a blanket stitch with heavy red rope silk. The blouse is laced at the neck with a ribbon of red silk, which, with the red on the collar, adds a bit of color to the whole.

DON'T MENTION IT, BRITISH REQUEST

Historians Want All Passages Eliminated Which Would Tend To Perpetuate Old Enmities.

(By United Press to The Bend Bulletin.)

LONDON, May 21.—An attempt to amend American history will be made at a conference of Anglo-American professors of history, to be held here in July.

Among the subjects to be discussed is a proposal that Americans should eliminate from their public school histories all passages which exaggerate the old antagonisms between Britain and the United States and the causes of the war of independence. It is believed here that most Americans are of the opinion

that the British example should be followed. For several years British public school histories have been purged of all references likely to cause offense.

More than 20 teachers of history are expected to come from the United States to attend the conference, and Professor Earle B. Babcock, head of the American University union in Paris, will represent the New York university.

Early-Day Peddler.

An important merchant of centuries ago was the man who did your buying for you. In those days there were no mail-order houses nor was there such a thing as running into town to do your shopping. So there was developed a professional shopper who made it his business to buy what you needed. He was known as a packer, packer, or pake-man, and from these words the modern names resembling them have sprung.

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