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EXPERIMENTS IN SIUSLAW FORESTS FOR TREE NUTURE

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less Land to Be Made
Productive

In order to dispose of the timber of the Siuslaw National forest and to learn the proper method of reforesting, Dexter Reynolds, formerly of Montana, J. G. Cockcroft, of California, and Carl H. Young, of this city, are making what are known as "type maps" of the Siuslaw forest. Every National forest on the Pacific coast is being treated in the same fashion. The work in the Siuslaw reserve began in June and will be completed the latter part of August.

Supervisor Cahoon describes the work as very important, especially for the coast district of Oregon. A "type" map gives an accurate description of the land in the forest and of the cover. This map will tell by color and legend, as well as by printed word, the kind of land, whether agricultural, mineral, mountainous or level and so forth, and the nature of the cover, what species, whether brush, young timber just sprouting, two or three inches thick, a foot or eighteen inches thick, or larger, class-

Take Place of Cruisers

The maps will be valuable for reference in case of intended purchasers. It will show distinctly where the timber is, and how much there is to the acre. For instance, in some localities timber six inches through is worth something, and in almost any place where transportation can be gotten that a foot or a foot and a half through is good for piling and telegraph poles. Thus the public will have a cruise of all the timber of the government.

Perhaps the most important value of the map will be in reclamation work, which it will precede. Section after section of land in the coast district, from Tillamook to Coos Bay, has been burned over. Much of this has grown up in brush so thick that it is impossible for timber to spring up, first because there are no seed trees near, and second because all sprouts are actually smothered to death by the bushes.

The map will show the extent of the brush districts, and by its aid the supervisor can plan to reforest the district. At the present time he is conducting experiments to find out the best method of accomplishing this purpose.

Sometimes his men can build fire lines around a brush patch and burn the land, followed immediately by sowing with timber seed. At others where too much young timber already exists, or the danger is too great to standing timber, a small clearing can be made in the brush and planted to forest trees. As the trees grow up they naturally drive back the bushes, and in turn smother them out. This process is tedious and slow, and is therefore not practical. Superintendent Cahoon says that the reclamation of forests will pay the government eventually about three per cent on the estimated worth of the land and the expense added together.

Important to Lane county. This feature of the coast forests is perhaps the most important to the people of Lane county. Thousands and thousands of acres of land that are now absolutely worthless in Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane and Douglas counties will be made a revenue yielder not only for the government but for the people. Every piece of timber taken from the national forest has to be sawed up and sold and exported just like that belonging to private corporations.

That reforesting is practical there seems to be no reasonable doubt. Germany handles its land in a more expensive and thorough way, yet it finds that it pays. The big railroad companies that own large quantities of land are also re-foresting and experimenting.

"The timber that pays best in the coast district is the Douglas fir," says

A. E. Cahoon, head of the National forest. "But this species is different from the cedar, or the hemlock. It will only grow in pure mineral soil and also requires light from overhead. The young shoots are also susceptible to heat, and are easily killed. To reforest the National woods with this kind of a tree requires great care and study. For this reason the government foresters are watching its growth under every kind of condition. In the Rocky Mountains it appears to be a stunted tree compared to those in Western Oregon, where it has its best development. In my experiments in the Siuslaw forest I have some small nurseries. At other places I have sowed it broadcast over burned soil, and at others in the brush. All of these are tabulated and surveyed, and the records kept for future use. Every few months I make examinations and record the conclusions."

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Dr. F. W. Prentice's offices are at 86 West Eighth street. Calls attended to day or night. Day phone Red 1171; night phone Main 529. tf

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