

Timely Topics

By HON. H. L. MOORE

The rapid depletion of our forest resources under heavy war demand and even heavier post-war housing requirements is forcing a basic change in the structure of the lumber industry. The formerly nomadic characteristics that moved it progressively across the country as virgin forests were depleted are now being changed to permanence and stability. Stumpage, once treated as a mineral resource, has now become classified as a crop. Preparations to perpetuate the lumber industry in favorable tree-growing regions are well underway. Research now reveals that present consumption can eventually be equalled by annual growth under a scientific program of greater utilization and modern forestry practice.

Success of the tree-growing program will depend upon public cooperation in protecting forests from fire, in tax adjustments that will permit profitable forest-growing by private individuals, and in the further development of by-products that will minimize waste and yield the added revenue necessary to support scientific management. Tree-growing lands will usually be located in back-country and costs of bringing forest products to market will trend upward until full development of the program is reached. The industry will need larger revenue per log scale unit and will find it in the expanding market for by-products and in greater utilization. It is the universal desire of lumbermen to thus avoid price rises that might endanger the markets for their products.

Current lumber demand is drawing heavily on private timber holdings as stumpage owners hasten to capitalize the chance to profitably dispose of a former liability. Private stumpage prices have lagged behind the advancing prices of public stumpage because private owners preferred a sure and substantial profit rather than risk speculation. Custodians of public timber wish to ride the present demand crest and to put a brake on extraordinary use of remaining timber resources. These circumstances will ultimately channel virgin timber stands into public and large corporate ownerships, except for scattered small tracts. It will also tend to make the creation of sustained-yield operations virtually automatic.

The correct timing of the sustained-

yield system will be essential to the winning of public support. It would therefore appear to be unwise to press for withdrawal of currently operative stands into sustained-yield units after public demand for housing has been satisfied by current production. Professional foresters are understandably eager to launch their excellent scientific programs for forest conservation, an integral part of which is proper use of existing virgin stands. But it seems they must temporarily yield to the exigencies of public need for shelter and postpone full application of their plans until the housing emergency is well past. A homeless public will not look kindly on curtailment of lumber production, even in the interest of forest conservation. The people will place the welfare of themselves and their children above everything else and they will be right.

Administration of our forest lands will be highly controversial. Federal agencies will vie with each other and with the state forestry departments for exclusive jurisdiction. Both Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior are administrators of vast forestry acreages. Each is grimly determined to hang on to its estate. The Forestry Departments of the several timber states are equally determined to protect their interest.

The timber ownership complications are such that no single administrative jurisdiction is practically possible. The solution probably lies in definite, clear-cut administrative assignments by the Congress to the two competing federal agencies accompanied by similar assignment by state legislatures to the state forestry departments, both legislative acts being integrated in a harmonious whole by conference and consultation between federal and state bodies.

This writer, an ardent advocate of government close to the people, believes that formerly administration will be more successful if subjected to local influence. Such a system would be more flexible and more readily adjustable to peculiar local conditions than remote federal controls. It should result in more scientific use of forest resources through avoidance of wasteful regimentation. There should be state leaven in the federal forestry bread.

Many Pheasants Killed This Year

An estimated kill of 50,000 pheasants was made by hunters in Malheur county during the open season that extended from October 19 to November 3, with a bag limit of four cocks a day and a possession limit of eight allowed, the state game commission announces. An unprecedented number of transient hunters took advantage of the good hunting available. Hunter success was high during the first few days of the season but dropped as the season progressed. The average for the season per hunter was estimated at 6.09 pheasants.

The game commission operated eight tagging stations in the district to accommodate transient hunters desiring to transport pheasants from the county. During the season 17,376 Malheur county pheasants were tagged, 51 per cent of which were tagged during the first three days. As local hunters were not required to tag their birds, it is estimated that the birds tagged represented about one-third of the total kill in the area.

A census of the bird population will be taken at least twice after the season to obtain comparative figures on pheasant density prior to the opening of the season.

During the special Summer Lake deer hunt held October 26 to November 2, 388 hunters were checked in and a total kill of 127 deer was reported.

With the close of the western Oregon elk season on November 14 and the eastern Oregon season on November 20, elk hunters are urged to be prompt in returning their check-out cards to the Oregon State Game Commission office, P. O. Box 4136, Portland. All hunters are required to make a report, regardless of whether or not an elk was killed.

Of 7,000 Sea Scouts who volunteered for the Navy during World War II, 6,082 were commissioned in the Naval Reserve. More than half of the 285,000 Naval Reserve officers were former Boy Scouts.

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Veterans' Question Box

Questions and answers on veteran welfare matters, prepared by the Veterans Administration and the V. F. W. National Rehabilitation Service. For free assistance or advice consult V. F. W. service office, Arnold W. Rice, Box 642, Coquille.

Q. I have suddenly become deaf, after about nine months after my discharge from service. Can I draw a pension?

A. Probably not. However, you should file claim and have your records thoroughly checked by your V. F. W. department service officer.

Q. I had an acute infection of the glands in my neck while in service which was diagnosed as tuberculosis. The glands were removed and the scars are healed. Am I entitled to a pension?

A. Not for the tuberculosis as such. If the scars are disfiguring, you may be entitled to a pension on that basis.

Q. I had active pulmonary tuberculosis in service in 1943, but it is now completely arrested. Am I entitled to a statutory award?

A. No, but you are entitled to \$50 per month for five years from date of arrest and \$30 per month for the next five years.

Q. If a lender turns down a veteran's application for a loan, what should the veteran do?

A. He should see another lender. The fact that one lender is not interested does not indicate that another may not be. One lender may not wish to make the type of loan the veteran wants.

Q. How can a veteran secure a guaranteed loan from a non-supervised lender?

A. All non-supervised lenders may apply for guaranty. Loans made by such lenders may be guaranteed only after approval of the Veterans Administration is obtained.

Q. How many veterans are attending school or receiving on-the-job training under the provisions of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill)?

A. At the end of June 932,230 Vet-

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erans actually were enrolled in educational institutions or taking on-the-job training as provided in Public Law No. 346.

JOHN SHILLING, Adjutant,
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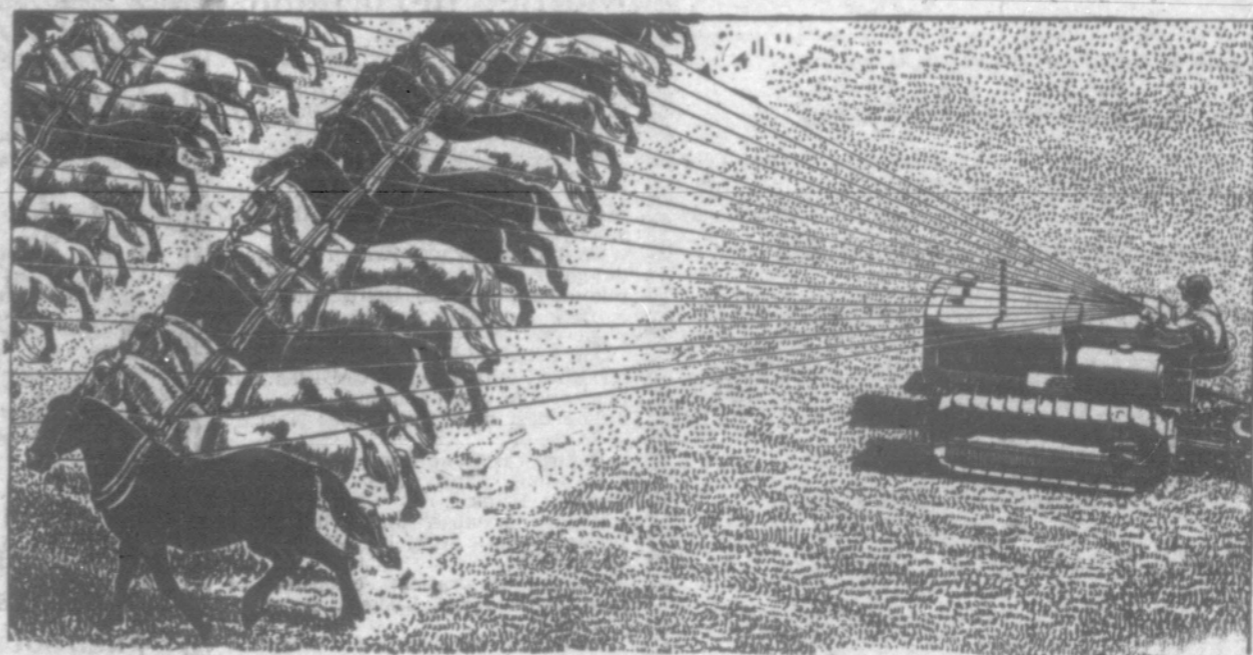


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Farmers need still more power. The country needs still more food. Uninterrupted industrial production will permit industry to catch up with the pent-up need for more farm power.

AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL INSTITUTE, 350 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

The Institute has printed a booklet STEEL SERVES THE FARMER.
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