

TOWN FORESTS



TOWN FORESTS ATTRACTS WILD LIFE

Their Economic and Recreational Value

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

THE timber shortage in the United States which the experts have been predicting for many years, is no longer a theory, but a condition. Here's the situation: The original forest totaled 822,000,000 acres. There now remain 138,000,000 acres of virgin forest; 250,000,000 acres of second-growth or third-growth forest, much of it of poor quality and some of it of no present merchantable value, and 81,000,000 acres of burned and logged-over lands, idle, unproductive, and for the most part unfit for farming. Of the original forest there is left in area one-sixth and in bulk of timber less than one-third.

The northeastern states cut 55 per cent of the nation's output in 1850; in 1920 they cut 6 per cent. Five per cent was the output of the Pacific and Rocky mountain states in 1850; in 1920 it was 35 per cent and increasing. The regional shortage has marched across the continent. Today 75 per cent of the virgin growth and 90 per cent of all the usable wood are concentrated on one-fourth of the acreage of timber-producing land—in the states of the Rocky mountains and Pacific coast states.

The states from Wisconsin and Illinois east to the Atlantic seaboard consume 50 per cent of the national cut, the supply mostly coming from the South and Far West. The railroad haul from the South is about 1,200 miles, and from the Far West about 2,750 miles. The railroads carry annually in excess of 3,500,000 carloads of timber and wood products. The freight bill is between \$250,000,000 and \$300,000,000.

In the national forests in 1923 forest fires covered 373,214 acres; the timber and property loss is set at \$494,995,000, with intangible losses incalculable. Insect pests cause an annual loss in excess of \$100,000,000. The forest service expends more than \$2,000,000 a year for "fire protection and protection against insects and tree diseases."

Lumber prices have increased all out of proportion to a point where they obviously bear no relation to the cost of production and distribution. Per capita consumption has decreased in consequence, but this is offset by increase in population. Moreover, there is still a housing shortage, and 1925 is apt to set a new building record. The papermakers have their own separate and distinct problem, which they regard as even more serious. They have been using spruce, fir, hemlock and aspen and hope to be able to use birch, beech, maple and other woods.

All of which makes interesting the "Town Forest" movement which is getting under way in the East, and especially in Massachusetts. For there is no possible doubt that a town with a successful forest of its own is in luck—and from many points of view. Anyone interested should send to the American Tree association, 1214 Sixteenth street, N. W., Washington, D. C., for a booklet just off the press, "Town Forests: Their Recreational and Economic Value and How to Establish and Maintain Them," by Harris A. Reynolds, secretary of the Massachu-



CHARLES LATHROP PACK

setts Forestry association. It is for free distribution for the good of the cause.

The "Town Forest" booklet carries a foreword by Charles Lathrop Pack, president and founder of the American Tree association, who gave impetus to the movement by presenting a thousand-acre demonstration forest to the New York College of Forestry at Syracuse university. His association, incidentally, is unique in that there are no dues, and the only way to become a member is to plant a tree and register it. And anyone who asks may have "tree planting instructions" and a "tree day program" free.

"Our idea," says Mr. Pack, "is to get the stranger to trees interested in one tree. With the individual sold on one tree, we then introduce him to the large phases of the subject. The 'Town Forest' is one of these phases. In hundreds of European towns the citizens receive a little check every year instead of a tax bill because of town forests. Rather an engaging idea, I think, in these days of income tax returns and the high cost of living."

Mr. Reynolds sets forth in one chapter that in 1913 a law was enacted in Massachusetts providing that cities and towns might set aside lands for the express purpose of growing timber. That law authorizes municipalities to purchase lands or to accept gifts or bequests for this purpose. A town may incur debt within the legal limit, and any town can establish a forest by a two-thirds vote of any regular town meeting, or a city by a similar vote of its council. When a forest is established by such official action the state, through its conservation commission, will give trees to the town to reforest the land.

The Massachusetts Forestry association started a campaign of education to persuade the cities and towns to acquire forests under the act. In the last three years, since the association has offered to plant free of charge 5,000 forest trees for any city or town which will establish a forest of one hundred or more acres, the idea is gradually being accepted.

January 1, 1925, 42 towns had set aside land for town forests or voted to do so when the committee could obtain the land. In the aggregate over \$25,000 has been appropriated by these towns, 3,500 acres have been included in town forests, and nearly half a million trees have been planted. The association has planted 60,000 trees (about 60 acres) for 12 of these towns that have qualified with 100 or more acres.

Of the town forests already created more than one-fourth have been obtained through gifts of land or of money from citizens interested in forestry and in the future of their town. The city of Fitchburg has 109 acres



In Washington's Day Today In wood

of woodland in four tracts, established in 1914. The maintenance cost of the forest has been \$4,405 and the returns from lumber and fuel wood sold has been \$3,518; it will show a net annual profit. Plymouth appropriated \$3,000 last year, bought 150 acres and planted 15,000 young trees.

Thus 42 towns now have their town forests. There are 105 others with committees appointed, and a large per cent of these towns will take favorable action this year. It might fairly be said that the town forest idea has been sold to Massachusetts and eventually every town with idle forest land within its boundaries will have its town forest. It is possible for about 800 of the 355 cities and towns in Massachusetts to have forests, and with each of these planting a few thousand trees annually the result will be far-reaching.

The creation of a town forest from the legal standpoint is simply a matter of routine. There are a few states that have specific laws pertaining to town forests, and these outline the method to be followed. Where no such laws have been enacted the general laws applying to municipalities will probably be found adequate to enable the city or town to acquire a forest. The states that have special legislation regarding municipal forests are Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont.

There are thousands of towns in which many acres of land are lying idle, producing little or nothing for the owners and only a few cents per acre in taxes. In its present condition it is more of a liability to the town than an asset. The average owner of such land either cannot afford to reforest it or is unwilling to put his money into such a long-time investment. But the town, a corporation, can afford to wait for the crop to mature. By putting this land to work now the town will eventually reap a handsome profit.

The booklet points out that the town forest stands at the threshold of the American home. It is the property of the people, maintained for the people and operated for their common benefit. It is theirs, within their reach, to use, to enjoy and to protect. It pays its own way, yielding a regularly maturing crop of timber on which, for local consumption, no railroad collects the freight. It stands as a constant lesson in forest protection and respect for common rights, which may be neither wasted nor abused. Without conflict, healthful recreation and pleasure may here go hand in hand with common dollar profit. It is a vital aid in the education of school boys and girls. It naturally becomes a sanctuary for the birds and wild life.

was the Zulkerbosch, which drains the Heidelberg-Nigel district. On March 18, six years ago, a tremendous flush of water came down—four times the quantity registered this year, when the rate of flow averaged 16,000 cubic feet per second.—Family Herald.

Harsh Words for Dean

British labor has no love for Dean Inge, who extols the virtues of the old aristocratic order in Britain and denounces the leveling programs of

the new democratic forces. The labor press hits at the doughty dean at every opportunity. He did not escape his barbs even on his recent visit to the United States, as is shown by the following comment by the London Daily Herald, organ of the British labor party: "Lecturing at Yale university on Monday last, Dean Inge declared that modern ministers who sought popularity were a positive danger to the Christian church. Well, surely he ought to know."

CROCKEYJOY ADVENTURES

By BETTY BROWNE

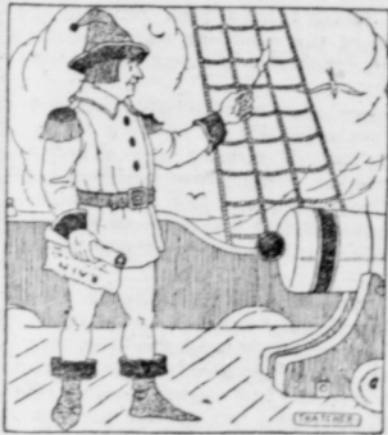
(Copyright.)

Ruth Meets the Thunderjoy
RUTH'S baby brother was asleep in his crib. Ruth had been left to take care of him while her mother went on an errand. He lay as still and quiet as the toy dog which he had taken to bed with him.

"He does not need watching," thought Ruth. Then her mind wandered. She found herself looking at a splash of sunshine which flooded through the window. In the sunshine tiny bits of dust were dancing.

"I wonder what becomes of all those dust specks," whispered Ruth to herself. At least she thought that she was whispering to herself until from right beside her came an answer.

"I'll show you," said the kindly old Crockejoy's voice, for it was he who had heard her. This time the Crockejoy carried two immense balls of cord which were wrapped on big reels like Ruth had seen the boys use when they flew kites. On the ends of his cord were two anchors. Before Ruth could even ask the Crockejoy how this cord was to be used, she and the Crockejoy had shrunk so small that they were no bigger than the dust atoms which she had seen floating in the sunshine. The Crockejoy had just



finished hooking the anchors in an opening between two floor boards when a slight breeze came rustling through the window. Away they blew like kites on a windy day, only instead of having some one on the ground letting out the cord to them, they unreeled it themselves.

Up and up they went. Higher than the housetops; higher than the church steeple; as high as the clouds themselves they soared.

"It's about to rain," said the Crockejoy, "and I want you to watch carefully and see just how the rain is made."

Ruth was very much surprised a moment later when she saw that the clouds were not solid, as she had always imagined. Instead, they were made up of tiny dust particles like those she had seen floating in the sunlight. Clinging to these dust particles were shiny globules of water. Right now the cloud she was looking at was soaking wet.

"Look, now! Look—quick!" cried the Crockejoy. "There, right in front of you, sails the storm boat with Captain Thunderjoy in command."

"Boom!" went the thunder gun. The storm broke. The lightning flashed. Water streamed from the cloud as though it were a giant saturated sponge which some giant hand was squeezing.

Ruth knew she must hurry home or she would get soaking wet, so she reeled in the kite cord as fast as she could. In a few seconds she was back in her home, sitting right where she had been when the Crockejoy came to see her.

Raindrops were splashing on her face and her middy blouse was damp. She jumped up and closed the window and, as she did, the screen door slammed and she heard mother coming up the stairs.

"I'm glad I can tell mother about the window being open and rain dashing in. Instead of about my trip to cloudland and getting wet that way," thought Ruth as she ran her fingers through her bobbed hair and brushed several moist ringlets back from her forehead.

Noah Webster Ranks Among "Best Sellers"

Just three weeks before Daniel Webster delivered his Bunker Hill address another Webster died whose name was no less a household word among his countrymen. No other American of the time had written upon so great a variety of subjects. Two books of widest national fame were his. Each had played an important part in the nation's social history.

One of the volumes was small enough to be slipped handily into a coat pocket. It had gone through one edition after another, until its binding of blue boards was as familiar to Americans as the cover of the household almanac or the lid of the family Bible. This was Noah Webster's "Speech." He published it when he was twenty-five, styling it "Part I" of "A Grammatical Institute of the English Language." At its author's death, in 1843, not far from 20,000,000 copies had been circulated. This, he remembered, was in a country of which the population was 17,000,000. Annual sales of the spelling book rose to near the million mark. Shortly after the beginning of the present century total distribution was estimated at some 75,000,000 copies. That establishes a record for "best sellers" by American authors.—Mentor Magazine.

UNDERGROUND CAVE REAL WONDERLAND

Cavern of Rare Beauty in New Mexico.

An underground wonderland, surpassing in size, sublimity and beauty anything of the kind hitherto known has been discovered by Dr. Willis T. Lee, who has just returned to Washington after a summer spent in surveying and mapping a portion of the caverns which run under the Guadalupe mountains, near Carlsbad, N. M.

Doctor Lee and his associates, working under the auspices of the National Geographic society, traced the ramifications of the main cavern, an underground avenue about a half mile wide, for two miles under the mountains. How much farther it extends is not known.

A great number of the smaller avenues branch off. No attempt was made to follow these. There is every indication, Doctor Lee said, that the discovery of the Carlsbad cavern is just a start of the wonders which further exploration of the Guadalupe mountain region in southeastern New Mexico and western Texas will disclose. Texas has already taken steps to set aside her section as a state park. It is probable that the mountains are honeycombed with subterranean recesses, Doctor Lee said.

The most striking feature of the Carlsbad cavern is the extreme delicacy of the architecture of the stalactites and stalagmites in the mammoth chambers. All sorts of fantastic, beautiful designs are worked into the onyx marble.

Doctor Lee found the caverns of Guadalupe mountains the home of a prehistoric civilization. Two skeletons have been sent to the Smithsonian Institution for identification. Other skeletons, buried in baskets, were found on shelves in the walls.

The people who inhabited the caverns are believed to have been close relatives of the basket-weaving people farther west. The caverns are a geological and biological treasure house. There are literally millions of bats, blind crickets and worms and spiders of hitherto unknown species.

Entrance to the cavern now is very difficult. It is necessary to climb 1,000 feet up a mountain side and then go down through a hole in the roof in a guano bucket for 170 feet. A walk of about two miles is then necessary over very difficult flooring before the end of the main cavern is reached.

The avenue leads downward through great chamber after chamber, until one is 800 feet below the surface of the earth outside. At this point the avenue drops off abruptly 90 feet. This has to be negotiated with a wire ladder. Mr. Lee explored a series of basement chambers never before seen by human eye.

The cavern is in dense darkness. The temperature remains all the time at 56 degrees Fahrenheit.

Useful Brief Case

Few brief cases are used to carry briefs. Watch the crowds going to and coming from work—boarding trains or leaving ferries during the commuting hours—and it will soon become apparent that the city could not possibly contain so many lawyers or so many briefs as the cases indicate.

As a matter of fact, the brief case has become a sort of carry-all for men and women alike in New York, and is found useful in the transportation of a surprising variety of objects. The brief case is a very general article. Observe the shopping crowd, especially in the better neighborhoods. A large proportion of women shoppers will be found carrying brief cases. Toward the end of the day's purchasing expedition these bags, ordinarily flat, show many mysterious bulges. If they contain sausages or onions the public will be none the wiser.

Plague of Locusts

Locusts in Persia practically destroyed the entire grain crop in the Mosul district. This was followed by a winter of extraordinary severity, which killed off 50 per cent of all live stock. Now the locust is in greater numbers than last year, and another failure of harvests must be expected. The shortage of grain in the Mosul area is so great and the price is so high that the movement of Mesopotamian artillery to Mosul was canceled on account of the extra cost of feeding the horses. The locust has never been known to be so far south before.

Grow Underground

Queer green plant algae that live and thrive in complete darkness nine feet deep in the soil are being investigated by Dr. George T. Moore, director of the Missouri Botanical garden, St. Louis. In spite of the fact that millions of them inhabit a clump of earth, their true function in life is unknown. One species of these subterranean algae is surprisingly ubiquitous. Dig a hole three or four feet deep in any part of the world and there the algae can be found.

Shield to Be Returned

The city of Quebec has just been notified that the shield taken from the gates of the old city after the capture of the place from the French by General Wolfe will be returned to it by the town of Hastings, England, as the result of a vote by the town council. The shield had come into the possession of Gen. Wolfe Murray, who presented it to his home town. The town of Hastings voted at first to keep the shield, but reversed the decision.



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New Cathedral Facade Belfast War Memorial

Belfast is commemorating its service in the World war by erecting a new facade for its Protestant cathedral as a victory memorial. The first stone was laid at a ceremony that was given state and civic dignity. The duke of Abercorn attended, as did the lord mayor and corporation of Belfast. The Protestant primate was present and was accompanied by 14 bishops, some of whom came from England. The Presbyterian church was represented by the moderator of its general assembly and the Methodists by the chairman of the Belfast synod. Lord Glenavy, chairman of the Free State senate, attended as an invited guest.

Dead Failure

Senator Cameron was analyzing at a luncheon the mercantile marine situation. He concluded: "So the business men who are trying to build up our mercantile marine for us will soon be in the position of the medico if they don't watch out. The medico was dashing along at a good pace when his horse pulled up short before a certain house. The medico frowned as black as a thunder cloud and gave the horse an angry cut with the whip. "Go on," he hissed "Go on, you fool. He's dead!"

Getting the Worst of It

Mrs. Ferguson reached over, took a long, dark hair of her husband's shoulder, and held it up for inspection. "That," he said, angry at the implied suspicion, "is from the horse's mane. I have just been currying him." "What made you suppose," she asked haughtily, "that I thought it was anything else?" At which he shrank back behind his newspaper again, feeling as if he had kicked hard at something and missed it.

A Lady of Distinction

Is recognized by the delicate, fascinating influence of the perfume she uses. A bath with Cuticura Soap and hot water to thoroughly cleanse the pores followed by a dusting with Cuticura Talcum powder usually means a clear, sweet, healthy skin.—Advertisement.

Interest Has Mounted

There is entered in a bank book owned by Mrs. M. Clifton Edson, East Bridgewater, Mass., a deposit of \$5 by her mother, Harriet A. Holbrook, made October 28, 1848, and upon which nothing more is recorded deposited or withdrawn. The \$5 has accumulated interest until it has grown to \$159.10.

Buried Watch

A woman's watch plowed under 17 years ago on the farm of John Briggs at Avoca, N. Y., has just been recovered when potato diggers came upon it in a hill of potatoes. The crystal was not broken and the watch was in good condition.

Not Many Women Vote

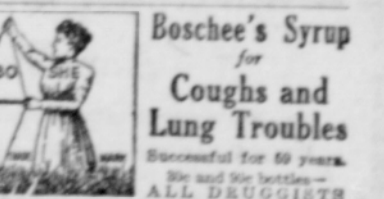
It is estimated that not many over 10 per cent of the women of the United States avail themselves of the privilege of voting. The approximate number of potential women voters is 26,000,000.

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African River in Flood

The Vaal river in flood as an outcome of continuous rains has drawn thousands of sightseers. The barrage has steadily regulated the flow. The quantity of water which was let down through the pier gates in one day would have been sufficient to supply the Rand with 10,000,000 gallons a day for two years. The only tributary of the Vaal which had not given any appreciable response to the recent rains