

Announce Prize Winners in Forest Fire Essay Contest

Announcement has just been made by the Crater National Forest offices of this city of the prize winners in the essay contest conducted during the recent national observance of forest week, among the students of the Medford high school.

First prize on the subject of "The Lumber Resources of Jackson County" was won by Minnie Whipple of the sophomore class.

First prize on the subject, "The Necessity of Protecting Our Forests From Fire," was won by Arthur Laing sophomore, and second prize by Georgiana Hussong and Hoxsey Borden.

During the same contest Frederick Phillips won the poster prize, and his winning effort is now on exhibition at the chamber of commerce.

The Lumber Resources of Jackson County

Minnie Whipple, Sophomore Class.

First Prize.

The greatest industrial asset to Jackson county is its twenty-three billion feet of standing timber. About two-thirds of the total acreage of the county is classified as timber land. Some of the lumber has been cut, but, commercially speaking, it is practically untouched. However, extensive plans are being promoted more and more each year for the cutting and distribution of the lumber.

With twenty-three billion feet tributary to any point adds greatly to the wealth of the county, as it will eventually give employment to thousands of people, there being no uncertainty as to the supply of timber.

This large amount of timber has a two-fold value: One as a source of lumber supply, and another as a factor in adding a perpetual flow of water in the streams by checking the melting of the snow and holding a plentiful supply of moisture in the ground during the summer months.

The kinds of timber found in Jackson County are fir, sugar pine, yellow pine, and cedar. The finest and most compact body of sugar pine in the world's wooded areas is included in this.

It will require upwards of half a century to log these immense forests, even though a quarter billion feet be removed annually.

Owing to the vast amount of timber held by the government which is now ready to be cut, there is a wonderful opportunity for capitalizing on the timber industry in Jackson county.

At present there are over twenty-five sawmills in the county. The daily capacity, with eight hour shifts, varies from three or four thousand to one hundred fifty thousand feet per day.

Railroads are being built from the larger towns into the heart of the forest areas, and logging roads will make practically all the lumber available. As the timber is removed, the land upon which it stands will be open to cultivation.

The era of development has scarcely begun in the forest-clad mountain ranges of Jackson county.

The Necessity of Protecting Our Forests From Fire

Arthur Laing, Sophomore I.

First Prize.

There are millions of uses for wood. It does not matter what kind or where it comes from; whether it is from northern climes or southern, it is wood, and everybody uses it. Yet some people—no, most of the people—do not realize the condition of our forests today. In the last century the forests of the United States have been depleted so much that our government spends hundreds of thousands of dollars to employ timber experts to help us conserve our rapidly diminishing supply and to reforest devastated areas.

A good percentage of these ravaged areas is the result of forest fires. Millions of feet of timber are destroyed in a short while just because someone was careless.

Suppose all the matches, cigarette and cigar stubs, pipe ashes, fire embers, had all been carefully put out before they were left, what a difference it would make to the amount of standing timber in the United States!

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Yet people who ought to know better, and who really do know better but are just careless, keep on with their lack of consideration for others and continue to destroy the heritage of future generations.

Maybe these people do not stop to think about what a world without timber would be. Yet a world without timber is exactly what will be if the fact is not brought home to the people that the timber resources of the world are dwindling so fast that some of our own generation may live to see the last of the good timber go.

Let us think more of the future and try to save for the coming people what we have so long enjoyed: our forests.

The Necessity of Protecting the Forests From Fire

Georgiana Hussong, April 25, 1923.

Second Prize.

Oregon, the Beaver state, has extensive forest regions that contain the largest merchantable body of standing timber of any state in the union. Lumbering is the chief industry. The Coast Range and the Cascade mountains are heavily overgrown with the most valued of trees, Oregon pine, sugar pine and a species of fir.

Why should we protect our forests from fire? To fittingly answer this query several important reasons must be given. If our forests are not protected from fire:

(1) It will soon leave us in a devastated state because our chief source of income will be gone, and forests do not grow overnight, as do mushrooms.

(2) It will prove that the American people are as a whole a wasteful and careless people. Economy is a good slogan for a nation.

(3) It will leave for the oncoming generations, a difficult problem to solve, that of finding a substitute to take the place of the lumber, which is so very useful to mankind.

(4) And, last, it will demonstrate to us that this waste of timber degrades our standing in the eyes of the world and shows us how narrow and selfish we are by not providing for the future.

The forest service is an important means in the prevention of fires. It is estimated that since the United States was settled, more forests have been destroyed by fire than by the ax, and that the annual loss of forest fires exceeded fifty million dollars.

Remember that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," so this applies in the protection of our forests, which God gave so freely to us.

The Necessity of Prevention of Forest Fires

The present situation is indeed alarming. The loss by fire has been increasing and the timber supply is decreasing through its enemy, the fire. Proclamations have been issued by the president and governors showing the necessity of preventing forest fires. One of the strongest arguments for this has been the crippling of the lumbering industry. Its products worth over one and one-half billions of dollars. It supplies 830,000 people with work and pays \$440,000,000 in wages. These forests are used as a recreational playground. Large sums of money are spent by vacationists at recreational centers.

The destruction by fire in the forests has been immense. In five years ending January, 1921, sixty-five and one-half millions of dollars have been lost in the forests of this country. Eighty-eight thousand square miles of forests, an area equivalent to all of England, Scotland and Wales have been completely consumed by fire in the last five years. This does not include the loss of life which cannot be figured in dollars sense.

The future outlook is not bright if the destruction of the forests by fire continues. In times of war a timber supply is needed as can be shown by the last war. If this practice of fire destruction is continued, we will have to face the same conditions as China and Europe. We should not only think of our own interest but also of the future generation. Germany sets an example of forest fire protection. They have stringent laws governing the care of their forests.

The federal and state governments are doing lots toward forest fire protection by appropriations, legislation, publishing pamphlets, but these are inadequate at the present time.

We can also help the prevention of forest fires by encouraging favorable legislation and being careful about setting fire in the woods.

NO CHANGE ASKED REHABILITATION ACT

WASHINGTON, May 17.—A resolution declaring it unwise to ask congress to make any changes in the present rehabilitation act was adopted unanimously at the concluding session yesterday of the conference of civilian rehabilitation officials, representing various states, social workers and government officials, called by the federal board for vocational education. The resolution requested that congress appropriate \$1,000,000 annually for expenditure in co-operation with the states and \$75,000 a year for administrative expenses of the board.

Bagdad R. R. Purchased. CONSTANTINOPLE, May 16.—(By the Associated Press)—The Bagdad railway has been purchased by a group of British and Swiss bankers, headed by the Rothschilds, according to the newspaper Yatan. The bankers are said to have acquired the German and Austrian holdings.

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