

about 8,000,000 acres of cut-over pine lands in Louisiana it is plain that the state is losing an immense fortune because of the non-productiveness of these great tracts. There is another 4,000,000 acres of land that once bore cypress and hardwoods that is idle making a total in all of 12,000,000 idle acres. The immediate plan of the state is to replant 4,000,000 acres, and to endeavor to counterbalance the annual cut of 250,000 or 300,000, which is now going on. The appeal to the boys was made in December, and by the next month not fewer than 5,000 had enrolled themselves in the clubs. By the end of this year it is expected that there will be 25,000 of them at work.

Five Acres for One Boy

How much will be planted by this force in a year is a matter of conjecture, but it has been estimated that a boy can plant and look after five acres of young forest in his spare hours and still have time for his usual work and recreation. If each boy plants three acres and looks after the young crop until it does not require further attention there will be a gain for the boys, the state and the lumber companies of 75,000 acres

a year. The boys will be instructed in the planting and care of seeds and seedlings and will be taught all about trees so that there will be the further advantage to the lumber companies of having not only a growing crop of lumber, but a growing crop of lumbermen, who when they take farms for themselves are likely to continue their attention to trees both as a source of profit and of interest.

Instructing the Boys

An article on this subject in Popular Mechanic says: "The State has placed a forester who formerly was connected with the Public schools, and thus is familiar with the American boy, and methods of teaching him, in charge of the reforestation plan, and has issued 5,000 copies of a bulletin describing in simple language the trees best adapted to the land in various parts of the State; how to tell the ages of standing trees, and how to plant, care for and protect natural or artificial forests with the best financial results. Special attention is being paid to the value of standing timber, which has been sold by Louisiana farmers with reckless prodigality in the past at from one-tenth to one-half of its real value. Little difficulty will be experienced in obtaining the use of farm lands from the farmers since an arrangement is to be made with the State Government whereby certain reductions in taxation will be given those owners of agricultural lands who allow the boys to reforest parts of such areas."

Needn't Wait a Lifetime

As part of this campaign farmers are being taught that timber suitable for such farm purposes as fence building, the construction of corn cribs and other farm premises can be produced at practically no cost to them. Those who can afford to wait until the newly planted trees are full grown will of course, reap a rich harvest, but others will find themselves in possession of most all the timber they are likely to use about the farm by culling their wood lots after ten years. They will also be provided with fuel at no other expense than the time taken to fell and cut up a tree. In the meantime the other trees continue to grow into money. The boys' reforestation club is a natural development of the cattle, pig, corn and other agricultural clubs for boys which are scattered all over the United States and Canada and which received a special impetus during the Great War.



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