

New York State Forestry Association

By Mr. F. F. Moon, Professor of Forestry Engineering N. Y. State College of Forestry.

A highly successful meeting of the New York State Forestry Association was held at the New York Botanical Garden on October 17.

The regular program was somewhat curtailed on account of the absence of Mr. Pettis so that the State-wide Fire Law was not discussed nor was the Jones Bill taken up to any extent. Professor Mulford of the Department of Forestry, Cornell University gave an interesting talk on the possibilities of the Farm Woodlot. In the discussion that followed it was brought up that co-operative marketing is in many cases as important as Community production and efforts should be made that will enable the small wood-lot owner to market limited quantities of his products at the prevailing market price instead of letting them go at cut rates.

The question of a forest inventory of New York State was discussed by Professor Moon of the New York State College of Forestry. It was stated that New York State while previously a large producer of timber has at the present time slipped back to 23rd

in the list of the States in timber production in spite of the fact that it has enormous areas of natural forest land. New York State consumes more lumber viz. one and three-fourths billion board feet and more pulp viz. over one million cords per annum than any other State in the Union but out of the total annual lumber bill of \$54,000,000, approximately \$20,000,000 are sent outside of the State each year to purchase raw material.

The report soon to be issued by the New York State College of Forestry in connection with the United States Forest Service on the Wood Utilizing Industries of New York State indicates that the Empire State has 14,000,000 acres better suited to the growing of timber than agricultural purposes. This enormous acreage should be made to yield a revenue instead of lying absolutely idle or at best producing but a fraction of its capacity.

It was tentatively decided to hold the January meeting in Albany and plans for a vigorous campaign to increase the membership were made.

USES OF SAWDUST.

Flour for trade purposes from sawdust is now in common use. It is an ingredient of dynamite, linoleum, xyolite, etc. The wood flour is ground in a mill, very similar to those which grind corn and rye. Pine and spruce sawdust is used, and after being passed through the stones and the bolting chest, it is sacked or baled for shipment. It is then worth 48s. to 52s. a ton. The flour has a number of uses. It is the absorbent for nitroglycerine, which is the explosive ingredient. Wood-flour dynamite is inferior to that made with infusorial earth as the absorbent; but it serves many purposes and is cheaper. But dynamite is one of the smallest prospective uses for the product. Linoleum makers mix it with linseed oil and give body to their floor coverings. It is not considered quite equal to ground cork for this purpose, as it is

less elastic, but it is cheaper and meets requirements for medium grades. The flour fills an important place in the manufacture of xyolite, a kind of artificial flooring, resembling wood in weight, and stone in other respects. It is used for kitchen floors, and in halls, corridors, cafes, restaurants and public rooms. It is impervious to water, and is practically fireproof. It is used as floor material in some of the German war vessels. It is so used because it is not liable to take fire or splinter if struck by shells.

Many owners of woodlands in Massachusetts, in addition to making a careful selection of trees to be cut, are replanting in every case where their lands are not sufficiently wooded, and many areas that for a century perhaps have been what are known as run-down pasture lands are being planted with suitable trees, either pines, maples or other woods that are best adapted to peculiar local conditions.