

FORESTRY AT BUFFALO.

A Forecast of the Splendid Exhibit Planned for the Pan-American Exposition.

Forestry will receive special attention at the Pan-American Exposition to be held in Buffalo next year. The exhibit will contain much that is interesting and beneficial to the general public, a description of which will illustrate the great scope and broad lines upon which the Exposition is founded.

The propagation, care, and preservation of forests has received a great deal of attention from the United States Government of late years. The United States division of forestry under Gifford Pinchot has made an unusually generous offer to all farmers or persons wishing to improve forests or plant wood lots. An expert will be sent upon application, at the expense of the Government, who will make an examination of the soil, climatic and atmospheric conditions, after which he draws up a plan for planting. He also instructs the farmer and his neighbors so far as possible in the elements of forestry. In the main this takes up the question of the proper kinds to plant in a particular soil and locality, the manner of planting and proper care of the trees until they attain maturity.

Particular attention has been given to the treeless regions of the middle west, especially to parts of Kansas. Farmers throughout that section recognize the value of wood lots as a source of supply for fence posts and fuel, as well as the benefits of protection from storms which is afforded by tree belts, when grown for wind breaks.

The necessity has been brought home to them by deprivation, accentuated in many cases by having once lived in one of the eastern states, when, in their younger days, the timber was considered a nuisance to be gotten rid of with the least possible delay and expense. They do not however appreciate the scientific advantages to the country at large, of proper forest influence, which result in protection against floods in Spring and droughts in Summer. The exhibit will take up the broad question of forest preservation, embracing the great national benefit to be bequeathed to future generations, by a moistened atmosphere, which in turn will provide a regular, copious, rainfall.

One of the most interesting features will be an illustration of the manner in which the mat of fallen leaves, which covers the ground in the forests absorbs the rain as it falls, instead of permitting it to course down the hillside, to join the brook which helps to swell the river to overflowing.

Distribution of moisture will be made plain, as the work is done in great chemical laboratory of nature.

How the wet surface of leaves, operates as an air tight covering to prevent undue evaporation, while the myriads of tiny rootlets take up the water as it slowly percolates through this covering into the soil, from whence it is raised by a mysterious capillary force, through the trunk and branches to the leaves it is given off in the form of vapor through transpiration, to be once more precipitated to the earth in the shower or dew that waters the growing crop.

The great importance of forest preservation in the United States is not appreciated by the general public. That the sentiment is growing is exemplified in the creation of forestry departments in our great university.

For more than a century the natural forests have been cut and destroyed until in many parts of the country the people are brought face to face with one of the greatest problems that ever confronted them. This problem in its intricacies, involves not only the supply of building material, pulp wood for

the manufacture of the largest amount of paper required by any country and the millions of other articles both large and small that are manufactured or derived from wood, but it includes the question of soil fertility, upon which depend both individual and national existence.

India's famine is a terrible illustration of the great danger that confronts a people whose lands are stripped of their natural forest growth. The danger may be exaggerated and is probably remote, but the underlying principle is there.

The forestry exhibit at the Pan-American Exposition will be housed in a building which of itself will be an interesting exhibit. With splendid natural resources to draw from and the advanced knowledge of forestry as a help it is the intention to make this, the most interesting and practical forestry exhibit ever brought together.

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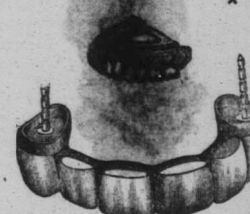
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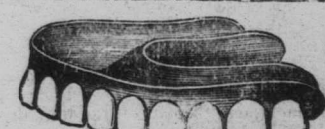
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