

allow these non-agricultural lands to be repeatedly burned over, then these immense areas will become deserts, whereas

if kept growing timber they will provide a permanent and increasing revenue. This is the "Why" of forestry.

The Crisis Facing the United States

The original forests of the United States are estimated to have covered 822 million acres and to have contained 5,200 billion board feet of timber. Over two-thirds of this area has been culled, cut-over, or burned. There are left to-day

about 137 million acres of virgin timber, 112 million acres of culled and second-growth timber large enough for sawing, 133 million acres partially stocked with smaller growth, and 81 million acres of devastated and practically waste land.

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There are 463 million acres of forest land of all sorts which contain about 2,214 billion feet of timber of merchantable size. Three-fifths of the timber originally in the United States is gone.

The cutting and loss of merchantable timber consume about 56 billion board feet yearly. About 40 billion feet of this amount is cut from the virgin forests still left, the rest from second growth. They are even cutting into pulpwood, acid wood, and fuel 14 billion cubic feet per year of material too small for sawing. All told they are taking about 26 billion cubic feet of material out of their forests every year and growing about 6 billion feet in them. They are cutting more of every class of timber than they are growing. They are even using up the trees too small for the sawmill but upon which their future lumber supply depends three and one-half times as fast as they are being produced.

SHELTER BELTS AND WIND BREAKS.

The term "shelter belt" denotes a protecting strip of trees made up of several rows. In planning the arrangement of the main shelter belt, always bear in mind that it is to be a permanent feature. The main belt practically determines the limit of space available in future for additions to buildings and so on. The belt of trees planted to-day will be in the same place thirty to forty years later. It may be well to suggest here that forethought be called to aid; settlers have at times planted the trees at the correct distance but in the wrong locations. The trees should be planted where they will be a protection—not to the log or summer shack of to-day but to the commodious farm house which it will be possible to erect after some prosperous years have intervened. It is therefore a good policy not to use the one ideal building spot for the original, and often humble dwelling. Once established, the trees cannot be removed without great labour. If for any reason it is found necessary to do this in after years, it simply means the destruction of what otherwise may be the most valuable portion of the home site. Remember, too, that any belt of trees will collect large drifts of snow in the winter time. It is not desirable to have such drifts immediately around the buildings, and for this reason the trees must be kept well back.

When we plant our cuttings it is somewhat difficult to realize that within ten or fifteen years they will be from twenty to thirty feet high with a corresponding spread of roots and branches. This must be taken into account when arranging for a shelter of high growing trees round the vegetable garden or fruit orchard. To