

What is Forestry?

What is Forestry? Ask anybody. You probably won't find out, because until recently few have paid serious attention to forestry. This is not to be wondered at. Forestry has been one of those—way worry—problems of the future. But that often-referred-to future is beginning to reach into the pockets of the people and is rapidly losing its futuristic disguises to the man on the street, says the New York State College of Forestry.

Forestry is the raising of repeated forest crops from non-agricultural soils and the proper utilization of these crops. Forestry involves the production of wood and the use of it. The primary purpose of forestry is to make the forest yield supplies to meet the needs of man. The farmer grows corn, the forester grows trees, one is as much a human necessity as the other. One is a crop of months, the other a crop of decades. That's why everybody can give a pretty good definition for agriculture and a pretty poor one for forestry.

Forestry is a science. It is also an art. It involves the problem of water supply where regulation and fresh replenishment is dependent on the forest. It involves the vital problem of recreation. The forester of to-day has undergone a marvelous transition from the old lumberjack

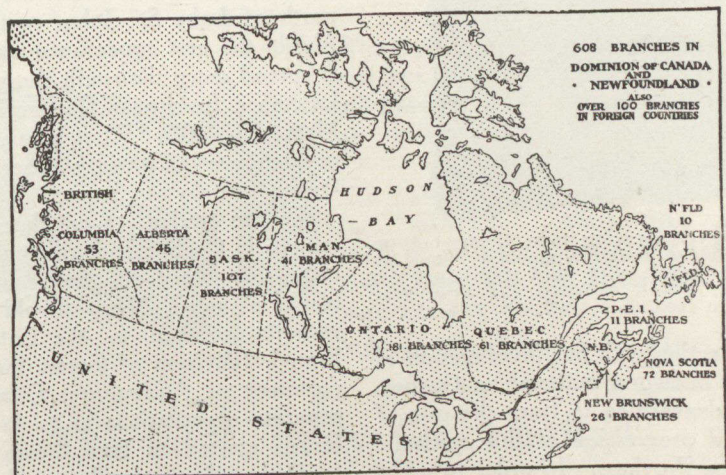
who used to embody the popular conception of a forester.

The forester has become a scientific specialist. He is required to study a complexity of subjects. Some branches of forestry require knowledge of cutting and hauling timber, the sawing and seasoning of lumber, some relate to the adaptability of innumerable kinds of wood to products of manufacture, the chemistry of wood, the production of pulp and paper, the structure of wood; other branches concern the protection of wood and trees from disease, the protection of trees from destructive insects and fire and the investi-

gation of new uses of wood; the science of growing trees, studying soils, topographical and climatical condition, the reproduction of continuous tree crops; the diversity of the ornamental and recreational problems in city forestry; lumber salesmanship also has become part of the curriculum of forestry instruction.

Forestry has been practiced in most foreign countries for more than 100 years but rarely in America. The people, however, are beginning to realize the need because it is being expressed in increased cost of living. Necessity is bringing out forestry and is teaching the cost that follows the neglect of forestry.

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