

Michigan, are no longer operated, because there are no more logs to saw. While the output has declined in the Lake States, it has rapidly increased, because of the building of new mills, in the South and West, so that the aggregate production of the country has been growing. The census reports show the following lumber production of the United States in recent years:

1904	34,135,139,000 feet.
1906	37,550,736,000 "
1907	40,256,154,000 "
1908	33,224,369,000 "
1909	44,585,000,000 "

The Panic of 1907.

The decline in the production during 1908 was due to the financial depression following the money stringency of the last quarter of 1907. The entire lumber industry has been marking time since that panic. It is one of the very few businesses which have not fully recovered from the effects of the decline in prices suffered at that time. But it is significant that while the prices of lumber declined, the prices of standing timber did not. Partly as a consequence of the completion of new mills under way, the total production of lumber in 1909 was the largest in the history of the nation.

Conservative Lumbering.

There is every reason to believe that the lumber production of the country has about reached its maximum. If generally favorable business conditions are to continue for a few years, it is evident that, with the decline in the output, the lumber business will soon enter upon the third stage of its development, namely, the adoption of conservative methods of handling timber. It is, therefore, easy to see why lumbermen are coming to realize that something must be done if their business is to be prolonged indefinitely. As long as the prices of lumber have barely covered cost of production, as has been the case with the great majority of manufacturers since 1907, no thought whatever can be given to forestry methods. Lumbermen know that timber products are indispensable to our civilization and that they can continue to be manufactured and consumed in the present volume but a few years at best.

When in the course of natural events prices of stumpage have risen to the proper basis, other conditions being favorable, scientific forestry will surely be adopted by lumbermen. They are too intelligent business men not to undertake those methods which will perpetuate their supplies of raw material and prolong their business. If forestry cannot be undertaken with profitable results it cannot be considered at all by private individuals, as they cannot be expected to conduct a work of this kind at

a loss to themselves, no matter how much they may be prompted by sentiment or regard for future generations. The price of lumber must reach a point where it will pay to grow trees or forestry cannot be thought of. The time when forestry can be seriously considered as a business proposition, therefore, depends entirely upon the development of economic conditions. It is to help them hasten these conditions that lumbermen will appeal to the foresters. Hence, the interests of the lumbermen and the foresters in working to this end are mutual.

First Steps in Forest Management.

Aside from the present inadequate value of stumpage, the two great obstacles to forestry are, as you know, fire and taxation. When these problems are solved, the field for forestry will be open in America. If the professional forester is looking toward a vocation in economic forestry, outside of the Government service, he must first address himself to the task of subduing forest fires.

A field which promises some opportunities for trained foresters in the immediate future is in the service of the States. A number of the State Legislatures are at this time considering the establishment of State forestry work which will require the services of technically trained men. This work will be confined very largely at first to fire prevention, particularly in the Lake and far Western States. These states themselves own vast areas of timber, for which improved protection from fires will be demanded as it increases in value.

The first concern of the State foresters will be the organization of efficient patrol systems, with all that that involves, namely, securing the co-operation of private timber owners, educating the public by word and pen with regard to its interest in the forest—the fact that forest wealth is community wealth—impressing every citizen with the fact that every tree which burns is a direct loss to him. The work of creating a healthy public sentiment in favor of larger State legislative appropriations for the protection and management of forests will devolve upon the foresters. The enormous losses by forest fires in the past year have put the public mind in a more favorable attitude for advanced work along this line than it has ever been before. It has become recognized that the State should not only insure its own property from loss, but that it owes its citizens the protection of their lives and property as well. No one can do more to impress this fact upon people than the foresters, because when the timber owner announces any such propaganda his motives are immediately questioned. The people will recognize the forester as a man qualified to speak and speak unselfishly.