

Restoring Our Lost Forest—The True Solution

By W. B. Greeley, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Provision for a continuous and sufficient supply of timber in the United States is one of the real economic problems which must be worked out by the present generation. Three-fourths of our primeval forests are gone. Sufficient timber for the future can be assured only by the general reforestation of land which has been or is being logged.

The United States, like the nations of the old world before it, must pass from the mining of virgin forests to the harvesting of grown timber crops. We are a people of timber users, and in order to continue timber users, we must become a people of timber growers.

Need of Timber Recognized

The need for timber growing in the United States has never been recognized so widely as at present. It has been brought home perhaps most acutely of all to the millions or more average citizens who want to build their homes but have been unable to afford it.

It has been brought home to the newspaper publishers of the country through the shortage and high cost of paper. It has been brought home to the industries which look ahead for a supply of raw material and who realize that virgin timber is not much longer to be had even at the expense of heavy freight charges for long-distance transportation. More and more people are asking whether supplies of second growth are available, or if not, whether they can be grown.

Using Second Growth Now

As a matter of fact, we are already using large quantities of second-growth timber. There are considerable areas in the south Atlantic states and in the spruce forests of

the northeast which have been cut over as many as three times. The box industry in New England depends almost entirely on second-growth pine for its raw material. But the critical point in the whole situation is that notwithstanding such instances, the United States is taking timber from its forests three or four times as fast as timber is being grown.

That is the problem in a nutshell. As against a steady shrinkage in the stocks of virgin timber, there are enormous areas of idle logged-off land, including millions of acres in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, and these idle lands are increasing by the millions of acres every year.

We are getting a haphazard second growth or, especially where forest fires are allowed to burn the logged-off lands, no second growth at all. If the economic necessities of the country are to be supplied adequately, the nation must find a way to bring about plan-wise reforestation on all cut-over lands suited to timber growth.

We have an abundance of forest land, not suitable or not used for farms, and are face to face with a shortage of forests.

Public Forestry Necessary

The growing of timber cannot be left to private initiative alone. It cannot be left wholly to the turn of profit or loss to the owner of the land under existing economic conditions. It is just the idea that the public should "leave it alone" that has led to the timber shortage now impending. The public interest must be protected through some form of equitable regulation of the use of forest lands to see to it that they are kept at work growing timber.

Forest Protection—A School on Wheels

(An Article from The Ottawa Citizen, May 4th)

"A travelling school in forest protection" in the novel from of a railway coach elaborately equipped with forest exhibits and graphic educational arguments for forest conservation was at the Central Station last night for a few hours and was visited by many leading citizens. Motion pictures were

made of the car yesterday for the screen weeklies.

This makes the second railway car to be equipped at Ottawa by the Canadian Forestry Association and sent on the road for educational work. The car will be at Montreal two days, then will cover New Brunswick,