

MINING COMPANIES PLANT FOR PROPS

Harrisburg, Penna.—Hon. Robert S. Conklin, Commissioner of Forestry, stated to-day that the most promising development of the past year in the field of reforestation is the interest mining companies are taking in forest tree planting. Fourteen different companies already have committed themselves to the practice. During the past four years mining companies have planted over 450 thousand trees, of which number 250 thousand were set out during 1919.

Coal companies are beginning to see the value of reforestation. They are experiencing great

difficulty in procuring suitable mine timber at a reasonable cost, and they realize that it is now possible to grow timber of usable size on their own holdings, at present almost entirely unproductive, long before the supply of their mines will be exhausted.

Commissioner Conklin predicts that mining companies will plant at least 500 thousand trees during 1920, and announces that the Department of Forestry is co-operating with them by supplying the planting stock, and giving technical advice free of charge.

BRITISH ISLES READY FOR PLANTING SCHEME

London, England.—When the last of three-decker men-of-war ran off the slips British forestry died.

The oak forests, planted after Trafalgar for the express purpose of building Britain's wooden ways, stood untouched at the beginning of the war. When the overseas' supplies of timber were cut off, the country had cause to bless the men who unconsciously planted for an emergency greater than any which they could have contemplated.

Serious effort now being made toward afforesting Great Britain is the result of the hard lesson learned during the war, and is but one of many hopeful signs of the intelligent reconstruction visible here. Britain can never be self-supporting in the matter of timber, and, whatever success may attend the present endeavor, it is not likely she will import a single log the less for a generation.

But, thanks largely to the splendid work of the Canadian Forestry Corps, her woods are a picture of desolation, and, even before that most successful attack, the area under timber was only 4 per cent of the whole.

The proposal is to spend three and a half millions sterling in planting a quarter of a million acres during the next ten years, under centralized authority, possessing wide powers and capable of laying down a well-defined, far-reaching policy.

Britain has never had a real forestry department, and one of its advantages will be that edu-

cation in forestry will be greatly stimulated, and a worthy career opened to experts.

The House of Lords, which has approved the scheme, knows more about such subjects than the commons, and it is hoped no serious opposition will be encountered in the Lower House.

PULP SCARCE—INQUIRY STARTS.

Washington, D.C.—Scarcity of wood pulp in the United States is becoming so serious that Congress will make a survey of the industry, Senator Gronna, chairman of the Forestry Committee, announced. A superficial survey of the paper industry by the committee shows that many daily papers, especially in the smaller cities, are unable to secure necessary print paper, and that the paper which is available has increased in price to such an extent it is difficult for small papers to continue at a profit.

BLACK WALNUT PLANTING

One hundred and fifty bushels of black walnuts were planted this fall in the Mont Alto nursery, Penna. The seed was good in quality and should produce 100,000 seedlings for planting next year. Most of the trees will be distributed to private planters throughout the State, who are anxious to start groves of this valuable tree, the wood of which was in such demand during the war.