

The Forests of South America

Buenos Aires, 1921.

Difficulties in the way of lumber importation during the war has caused the South American republics to turn their attention to their own forests and to-day there is a movement for the conservation of timber lands, for a properly supervised cutting of forests, and a government regulated replanting of trees to replace those cut. The forests of South America constitute the most extensive and the most valuable source of lumber that exists anywhere in the world and if they were protected and worked under regulation, instead of being destroyed as they now are, they could be made the fountain head of untold wealth in the years to come.

Timber probably is the only natural resource in South America the development of which is not dependent on the construction of roads and railways, for there are navigable rivers in all the wooded lands that would permit the carrying of logs to consuming centers.

Recent forestry investigations in Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil and Co-

lombia have shown the fallacy of the widespread belief that the tropical forests of South America contain only hardwoods. These forests contain soft and semi-hard woods which have proven fully as adequate for construction purposes as the pine which is now being imported from the United States.

Forests of West Africa

Among the woods are Okume, Spanish or French, according to its origin in Spanish Guinea or French Gabon, is used for cigar boxes and commonly known as cigar wood; also for veneers and as a substitute for mahogany.

Mahogany, of two species, the aromatic and the capeli, is found over the entire coast country.

Pear, Moabi and Njabi are found principally in Kamerun and Gabon. These are excellent furniture woods.

Others are: African nut, ebony, padona, lemon, zebra, African poplar, apzelia and poplar. These latter appear principally in Kamerun and are useful for various technical purposes and in the manufacture of furniture.

Annual Meeting of Forest Engineers

THE Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers was held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on Jan. 18. There was a large attendance of members, and there were also several prominent foresters from the United States present. The meeting included morning and afternoon sessions, at which a number of interesting and instructive papers were delivered and discussed.

The prospects in forestry as a profession were discussed by Mr. Ellwood Wilson, Laurentide Co., in a paper entitled: "Mutual Help and Salaries" and Prof. W. N. Millar, Toronto University, led the discussion.

"The Relation of Foresters to the Logging Departments" was the subject of an able paper by Mr. B. F. Avery, Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills,

and Mr. G. H. Schanche, Abitibi Power and Paper Co., led the discussion.

Mr. E. F. McCarthy, of the Commission of Conservation, read a paper on "What answer can we give when we are asked to tell how timber in Eastern Canada should be cut by pulp and paper companies," which was based on studies made on cut-over lands. This paper aroused considerable interest, and was discussed by Messrs. G. H. Prince, New Brunswick, W. N. Millar and others.

Mr. Ellwood Wilson, assisted by Mr. C. R. Townsend, gave an instructive talk on the Interpretation of Aerial Photographs, illustrated with photos and lantern slides.

Mr. D. C. A. Galarneau, St. Maurice Paper Co., described his method of conducting forest surveys, which brought out a number of interesting points