

A good deal is being said and written in Great Britain of the afforestation of waste lands as a means of affording relief to the unemployed, but judging from the experience last winter of a writer in the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry* the scheme is not likely to prove a success. Work was begun on a large estate in October, thirty or forty men being employed during the whole winter. Great care was used in selecting the men, only those who appeared to be able and willing to work being engaged. Only twelve worked all through the winter, the rest coming and going the whole time the work continued, those leaving being replaced by others. The majority were found to be incompetent and unwilling to work. A great deal of teaching and constant watchfulness were necessary to get the work properly done. No interest whatever was taken in the work by the men and they did not particularly want to learn. The cost was found to be much greater than it would have been with a skilled permanent staff and in the opinion of the writer referred to afforestation of waste lands cannot possibly be made to pay if such casual labor be employed.

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The tightness of the money market during the past year, and more especially during recent months, will have a direct beneficial effect upon the conservation of our forests. The rapidly growing demand from all quarters that there should be more stringent laws regulating lumbering operations, and especially the export trade, will almost certainly crystallize into some sort of remedial legislation within the year. Those who have seen most clearly the need of such legislation were powerless to prevent the wholesale destruction of our forests which is still being carried on by a few lumbermen. But what they could not do the scarcity of money is doing. Construction work of all kinds has been greatly curtailed, and the demand for lumber correspondingly lessened, and many of the lumbermen have themselves felt the pinch and have been unable to operate this winter on so large a scale as they had intended. Fortunately they will gain and not lose by this enforced restriction of their business for were the cut this winter as large as was intended the market next season would be glutted with lumber that there was not money to purchase. But to those who are not financially interested in the lumber business anything is welcome that keeps the axe and saw from the tree and many years of the most approved forestry methods could not replace the trees that would have been destroyed this year had money been plentiful.