

it will demand that forest lands be viewed in a sense as public utilities and placed under sufficient public regulation to keep them in a reasonable state of productiveness.

Probably the greatest force of all, however, in bringing about the growing of timber crops will be the enlightened self-interest of the owner of the land, the steady pressure of business interest. The situation in which the growing of timber has no place in the plans of the forest owner is rapidly passing. In more cases than are often realized, reforestation presents today a business opportunity, offering tangible profits. Much small sized timber is now logged on a very precarious margin between cost and returns. Much of this class of material, if left on the ground, will earn from 10 to 15 per cent. a year in added growth and better quality, to say nothing of future enhancement in lumber values. Lumbermen who are skinning southern pine lands can often, at a small investment, start that land to producing from 300 to 400 feet of timber per acre yearly. Far-sighted business men will not ignore these considerations. Plan-wise reforestation may bring results in a dozen years in the added life given to a manufacturing enterprise, in the security of its credit, or the sale value of its cut over lands.

Any business undertaking looking to the future requires vision, faith, and courage. The growing of timber is no exception; but its requisites in these qualities are no more than were required of the pioneer lumbermen who struck out into each successive frontier of virgin timber and gave this industry its high standing in America. I have heard many lumbermen say that reforestation is not practicable because of the uncertainty of the tax burden during the period of growing a mercantile crop. It is an old saying that the world stands aside for men who know where they are going. And it is my strong conviction that timber land owners who strike out in the use of their land in line with the dictates of common sense and the economic needs of the times will, by their own leadership and sincerity, command public support at the points where it is needed and reasonable.

We have not delayed in the United States to build our railroads, establish new manufacturing industries, or develop our water powers until all of the uncertainties in the enterprise were removed. The most distinctive thing in the vitality of American business has been its courage and faith in entering fields of activity. The



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reforestation movement in the United States needs exactly this same kind of industrial leadership. And I for one am confident that it will be furnished.

FOREST ENGINEERS BUSY

Two forest engineering parties from the New York Office of James D. Lacey and Company have recently started important field work in the South. One party of twenty men is making an intensive forest survey of 127 square miles in Louisiana in advance of proposed manufacturing operations for which the timber estimates and type map will be the basis. Mr. S. J. Hall spent the week of December 10 with the Louisiana party. Another party is making a careful cruise of a smaller tract in South Carolina in connection with the acquirement of stumpage for an existing mill operation. Several preliminary examinations have also been made recently along the Atlantic seaboard and a reconnaissance of pulpwood resources in the central Gulf region was completed a short time ago. In addition to the actual and prospective improvement in business conditions reported practically throughout the South, there is a rapidly growing recognition of the re-growth possibilities on cut-over lands, and the future timber supplies of several companies are likely to be grown as crops under careful forest management.

A PEELED BIRCH TREE

Defaced it stands! I do not know
your name,
Who peeled this birch-bark tree, but
ah, the shame!
You wanted on a bit of bark to send
A maudlin little message to a friend?
To make a napkin ring, or some such
trash?
And so with pocketknife you needs
must gash
A ghastly wound, and peel a birch-
bark tree.
Out of my thoughts, Oh you, who e'er
you be!

—Margaret Clarke Russell.

THE SMELL OF TREES

Surely of all smells in the world the smell of many trees is the sweetest and most fortifying. The sea has a rude, pistolling sort of odor that carries with it a fine sentiment of open water and tall ships; but the smell of a forest, which comes nearest to this in tonic quality surpasses it by many degrees in the quality of softness. Again, the smell of the sea has little variety, but the smell of a forest is infinitely changed; it varies with the hour of the day not in strength merely, but in character; and the different sorts of trees as you go from one zone of the wood to another seem to live among different kinds of atmosphere.—R. L. Stevenson.