

THE FOREST SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES.*

BY OVERTON W. PRICE, ASSISTANT FORESTER.

First of all, it is my great pleasure to express to you the hearty good wishes of Mr. Gifford Pinchot, chief of the Forest Service, as well as his deep regret that the urgent demands of our work upon him made it impossible for him to attend this meeting of your association.

It is a very keen pleasure for those of us who are in forest work in the United States to meet in this way you who, with so much vigor and effectiveness, are striving to bring about a better use of the forests of this great country.

It is with very deep satisfaction that the forest service has noted the growing intercourse between Canadian foresters and foresters from the United States; and permit me to say right here in recognition of your consistently helpful attitude, that I don't believe there is a forester in the United States to-day who would not call for help or advice upon one of you, with just as assured a feeling of getting it as if it were asked from some one on his own side of the line.

We shall do all in our power, as you are doing, to keep alive this spirit of helpful co-operation. The problems before you and the problems before men in forest work in the United States vary in detail, but in essentials they are the same. The same fight for the forest against indifference, against ignorance, and against private interest of the wrong kind, is going on on both sides of the line. And it is the sum of the victories that is going to make the forests, not of Canada alone, nor of the United States alone, but of the whole North American continent, play their great part in its commercial and industrial development.

Now I would like to tell you—it will take but a few minutes—something of the progress the Forest Service is making. I believe that the branch of our work which will appeal most strongly to you is the result of the national policy in the creation, management, and use of forest reserves. We now have, as you know, 111,000,000 acres of these reserves, all west of the Mississippi River, lying mainly along the crests and upper slopes of the Rocky Mountains and the Sierras. From the point of view

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