

What Forestry Means to You

By Owen Jones

(From Australian Forestry Journal.)

FORESTRY is not a mere fashionable fad, a harmless hobby pursued by a few amiable cranks. It is a practical, business "proposition," on a hard cash basis, and you cannot live without it. It is a primary producer on a grand scale. Neglect it, and it is not merely posterity that will suffer; you will suffer, directly and immediately. Your pocket will be lighter, and the cost of living will be raised for you. You are suffering already for past neglect on your own part, and on that of your fathers. It is no fanciful affair. It means the application of business principles to natural resources. If the forests cannot be made to pay, abandon them altogether.

Perhaps you think you have nothing to do with the forests, and they do not concern you. All you produce, whether in the raw or the manufactured state, comes to market only through the help of wood. It is packed in wooden containers—boxes, crates, casks, barrels—it is carried in wooden carts or waggon; it is loaded into wooden trucks, it runs over rails laid on wooden sleepers. Without wood the people in the cities would starve.

Look around you in any room; wood everywhere. Chairs, tables, floors, doors, window-frames, rafters, beams, the fire in the grate, all are wood.

Do you play games? Cricket bats, tennis racquets, golf clubs, billiard cues, and tables, gramophones, pianos, dancing floors—could you make any of them without wood?

Do you use coal directly or indirectly? Every mine is a large consumer of wood. Without wood no coal could be mined; if wood is scarce and dear the price of coal goes up, and every industry using coal is affected. All your manufacturers are directly dependent upon wood.

Think of ships, wharves, piers. Wood enters into the construction of all of them; not so much as formerly no doubt, but still to a great extent. But for wood none of you would be here to-day, for your fathers could not have crossed the seas.

Are you interested in agriculture? Farm buildings, outhouses, sheds, fences, farm implements, tool handles—all require wood. You cannot grow wheat or wool or meat without it.

Do you want the latest news? You cannot have it without wood. Telegraph poles, telephone poles, all are wood. This newspaper is made out of wood pulp. Do you realize how much wood is used up for newsprint? In the United States of America alone the amount of wood used every year for paper pulp is over six million cords—nine thousand million superficial feet of wood!

Are you a smoker? Your pipe is wood, and so is the match with which you light it.

Not only wood, but many other things also come from the forest. Eucalyptus oil, wattle bark, honey, charcoal, tar, creosote, formalin, acetic acid are all forest products.

Do you play football, ride a bicycle, or drive a motor-car? Rubber is obtained from trees.

Think again for a moment of the indirect benefits you owe to the forests. What gives you your supplies of pure drinking water? The forests. What prevents floods, silting, and erosion? The forests. What makes irrigation possible? The forests. Their value in this respect is of

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THE USE OF WASTE LAND

Q.—I have a brother a farmer in Western Ontario and his place contains much waste land which he would like to plant. Who can help me get such planting work under way?

A.—In the first instance write to the Provincial Forester, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, who will be glad to advise you as to procedure and he may be able to supply with sufficient tree stock from the Provincial Nursery. Keep also in touch with the Canadian Forestry Association, Ottawa. They will do everything possible to assist you.