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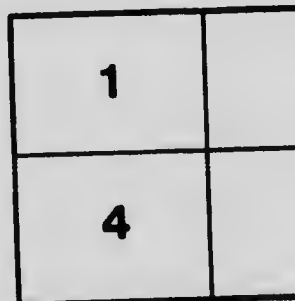
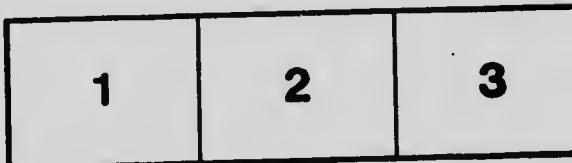
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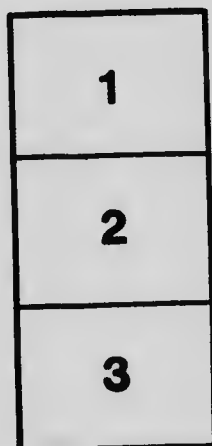
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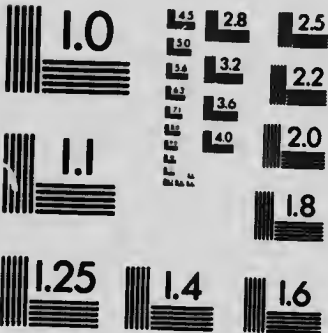
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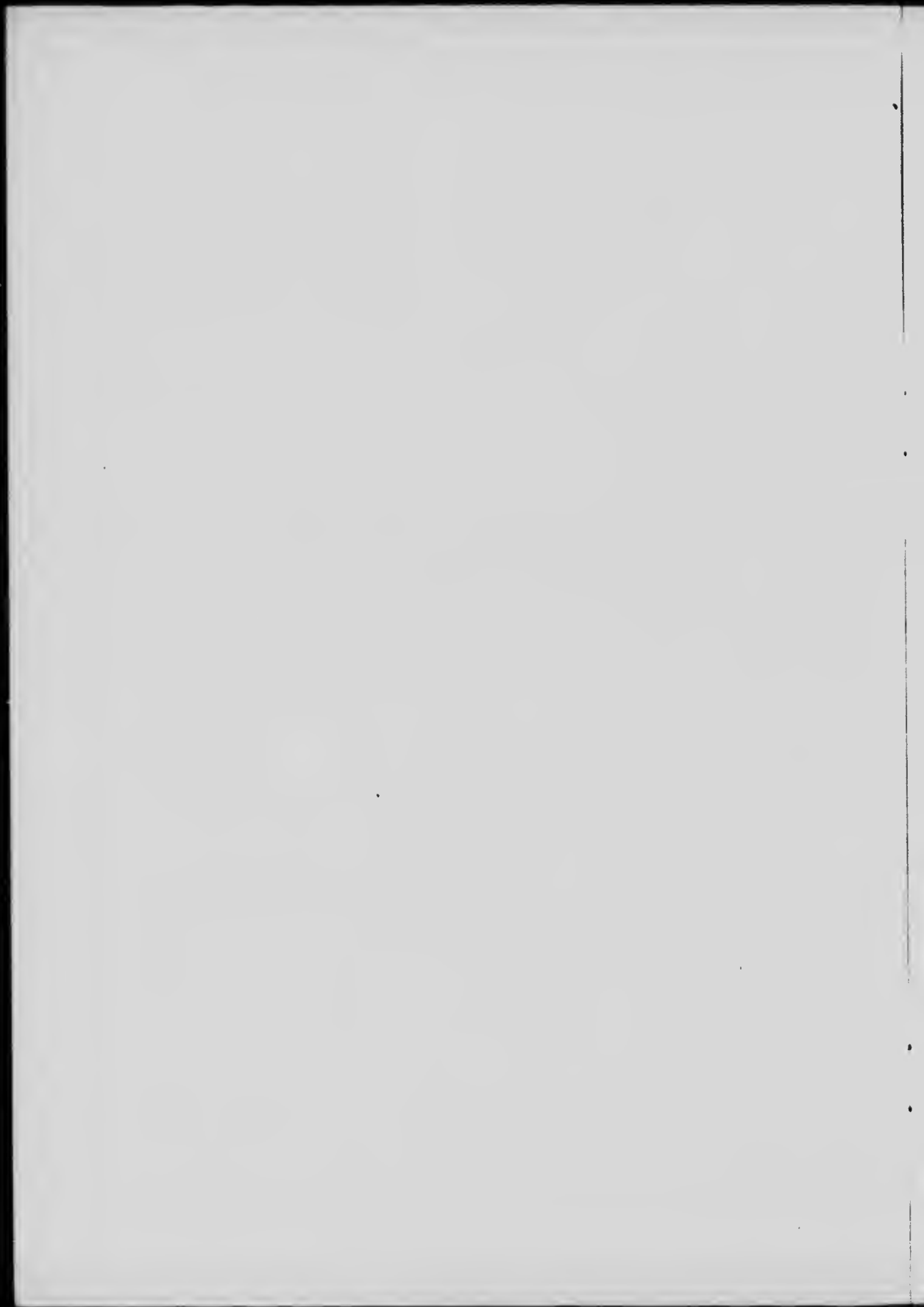
**Museums as Aids to
Forestry**

BY
DR. HARLAN I. SMITH
Museum of the Geological Survey, Ottawa

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Museums as Aids to Forestry*

BY

DR. HARLAN I. SMITH

Museum of the Geological Survey, Ottawa

IN gaining due recognition and support from the great mass of the people, museums may be great aids to forestry. Even the further application of museum methods in forestry may be of valuable service. The extent of the possibilities in these lines, of recruiting aid by means of museum methods of publicity, recreation, instruction, and research, can hardly be forecast. Such museums or methods, however, must be properly administered to be effective. The methods used, for instance, in the large and costly Botanical Museum, in New York, would be of little or no avail to forestry. That museum may be of use to scientists, but is not of much human interest to me, and, therefore, I judge, not to the average citizen, lumberman or forester.

Small Expense of Equipment

Vast expenditure of time and money is not necessary to secure valuable aid by these means. Museum cases, if such are really required, may be made at a cost of less than four dollars per foot front. A large collection of specimens, maps, photographs, and labels is not required to inculcate ideas of the practicability and economic importance, to say nothing of aesthetic values and love, of forestry. A small exhibit may teach the general and valuable principles of forestry, perhaps, even better than a complete exhibit of all kinds of trees, such as is shown in the American Museum of Natural History in New York. So a complete exhibit might confuse, or burden. Those whom it was desired to influence on behalf of forestry might be lost in the woods, as it were.

Museum in Rocky Mountains Park

The Rocky Mountains Park museum, at Banff, Alberta, a beginning of a tree exhibit has been made. There are eleven species of trees in the park. Five grow in the valley, but the other six are found only on the higher land. A complete collection of the trunks and leaves of the trees growing in the valley was made in two half days while also engaged in other work and without any expense except as for time in cutting the trunks to lengths for exhibition. Two photographs were also made of each of these five kinds of trees; one of a

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grove or group of each kind of tree from a distance, and one of the details of the trunk, bark, leaves and such flowers or fruits as were then in season. Later photographs are to be made of the parts of the trees not yet taken and of uses and abuses of each tree and its products. Tentative labels had previously been prepared by the late Mr. Abraham Knechtel, Chief Forester of the Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior. These refer particularly to the park and are to be revised so as to serve as labels to the same trees in any other museum that may require the labels. Supplementary labels, describing the peculiarities of the same trees as to the park, are also in preparation. The museum labels were printed on card of a yellow colour and in a brown ink to harmonize with their surroundings.

They were framed and securely screwed to the trunks of the specimens, so that they can not easily be removed. The glass covering protects the label from dirt and breakage. A handbook was also printed from the type before it was distributed. When these labels are revised, to include instruction and explanation of the most important of the forestry abuses and needs, and when specimens of uses of the lumber and other tree products, such as wood alcohol, charcoal, and turpentine, are added with full labels, this exhibit will be the beginning of a suggestion for a museum aid to forestry.

Information to be Supplied An example of such information as should go in a label is that the obnoxious pitch of the Balsam is so largely in the bark that the wood, formerly not used at all for wood-pulp, is exceptionally valuable for this purpose. The qualities of a great number of woods may be shown by the exhibition of the volumes of *American Woods*, published by Hough, and illustrated by cross, radial, and longitudinal sections of actual trees. To accomplish the best result, however, expert foresters, who know the scientific facts, must co-operate with those who understand people well enough to translate forestry facts into terms that not only can be understood by those whom forestry seeks to convert to its aid but into terms that will also attract those people to read the labels and study the specimens.

The same labels may serve as outlines for lectures, each label being illustrated by lantern slides made from the photographic negatives previously mentioned. It is part of the work of some progressive museums to give popular lecture interpretations of science as well as scientific lectures, and recreation based on instruction. Then, too, the museum may send out both travelling exhibits of forestry and lecture outlines made up of the labels, together with loan sets of lantern slides.

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The president of the Ohio Academy of Science, speaking at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Academy, stated that the existence of the Academy was unknown to the great majority of the people of Ohio, and a "Pan-American Scientific Congress," which met this month (January, 1916) in Washington, was organized, under the chairmanship of the third assistant United States Secretary of State with a program of nine sections, but ignoring Canada and also mathematics, physics, pure chemistry, pure geology, zoology, psychology and botany, so it was really a congress of American republics, neither Pan-American nor scientific. The United States Secretary of the Navy, in selecting the societies to elect members of the Naval Advisory Board, ignored the National Academy of Science, which is, by law, the adviser of the Government, and also ignored the American Association for the Advancement of Science, which is the great Democratic body of over 4,000 scientific men of the United States and Canada. He apparently never heard of either association.

These striking examples seem sufficient to suggest that the forestry branch of science, as well as the whole scientific tree, would do well to seek aid by every means of publicity, recreation, entertainment, education and research possible. Since all these mediums are included among museum methods and in the work of up-to-date museums, the latter may become of great aid to forestry, while forestry may provide museums with many necessary scientific facts.



