

### Some True Facts Of Conservation

#### Idea Of Blind Blaming Is Being Replaced With More Practical Plan Of Knowing About Conservation

About this time of the year some new recruit to some editorial staff is certain to arise from a good night's sleep in a wooden bedstead, step onto a wooden floor in his flat, don clothing partly made from wood fibre, eat his breakfast from a wooden table, walk to his office in bark-tanned leather, take up a wooden pencil, sit down to a wooden desk and write an editorial on wood-derived paper. This editorial, to be printed on seventy acres of spruce trees turned into one newspaper edition, will be a scorching denunciation of "the ruthless lumbermen" and their "criminal destruction of our forests." Having done this, the editor calls in his architect and tells him that after thinking it all over he has made up his mind that he prefers a frame house for the new home. And then he reflects some more that certain sordid and selfish men are "destroying" the forests. It never occurs to him that they are using the forests.

This sort of editor is getting scarce, because he is learning something about the true nature of conservation, but the world is full of people who actually believe that the utilization of forests for the making of more than 4,000 different sorts of articles and commodities that are insistently required in daily life is destruction and vandalism. Undoubtedly many conscientious people think they are practicing conservation and helping to reclothe the United States in a forest garb, animate with wild life, by denying themselves lumber houses and many articles of wood-ware. Many others have acquired such a lop-sided conservatism that they are sure the forests are about gone and that what are left are too poor to use. This kind of apprehensive conservationist flourished thirty, forty, and even fifty years ago; and he was even certain then that the end of our commercial forests was just around the corner of a little time.

Now what are the undisputed facts about the forests and their utilization?

Well, in the first place we still have about 2,500 billion board feet of standing timber of saw size. The annual consumption of this timber amounts to 60 billion feet, and of this 60 billion only about one half represents sawmill products. So, if we continue to have as large and as robust an appetite for wood as now we shall take forty years to eat up our remaining forests, assuming that there is now new growth in that time. But the forests are now resending themselves at the rate of 12,000,000,000 feet a year, we would still have eight more so that at the end of forty years years to go.

In the second place as wood becomes scarcer and dearer we shall be more economical of it and require less.

In the third place we have 90,000,000 acres of forested lands in national and state forest reservations.

In the fourth place we are just entering the era of private reforestation, because reforestation is just beginning to pay. Many well meaning people think that reforestation is a philanthropic enterprise enlisting the enthusiastic interest of all persons who happen to own land with trees on it. In truth it is a business, and if it doesn't pay it will not be practiced by wise men any more than any other non-paying business. However, it does not need to pay the government directly in dollars and cents, and the national and state governments are entering upon a growing policy of buying cheap and unused land for forest purposes. Several millions of acres have thus been bought out of the public purse. Much, but only a drop in the bucket compared with the 160,000,000 acres—gross area—of National Forests permanently reserved from the public domain. Now natural forest growth is being guarded now on millions of acres of private lands and such owners have already assisted nature by planting 1,000,000 acres.

Fifty years from now the annual production of wood in our forests will be five or six times what it now is. That is to say we will then be growing timber as fast as we use it. This prediction is largely based on the assumption that it will pay to raise timber. To make it pay to grow it somebody must use it and pay for it. The surest way to discourage reforestation and destroy all present without succession is to abolish the use of lumber and other forest products. It is use that creates value, and it is value that men treasure, preserve and conserve. That is why reforestation by private citizens was an impossibility in the past. They couldn't compete with the bounty

of Nature who originally endowed this country with more than five thousand billion feet of timber, free for the taking.

The natural timber is now becoming very valuable. It represents investments, by purchase, of billions of dollars. The taxes on it are enormous. Probably half of it is past maturity. It has stopped growing, and much of it is decaying. Nothing is to be gained from any point of view and much is to be lost by leaving such trees in the forest. In the case of scores of millions of acres no new trees can be started until the old ones are removed. They actually stand in the way of forestry, and they will continue to stand if there is no use for them.

The moral of all this is that no man need worry about forest utilization as a forest menace. The surest way at this time to promote forestry is to use its products intelligently and prudently; the surest way to defeat it is to reject them. You can live in a lumber house and use wooden goods if you please to your heart's content, in the consciousness that you are both serving your private good and the common interest.

### Cutting Dogwood Not Destructive

#### Contrary To General Belief, Proper Harvesting Of This Crop May Result In Even More Beauty

By R. W. GRAEBER, EXTENSION FORESTER, N. C. STATE COLLEGE

"Oh! Can't we do something to stop the destruction of the dogwood in North Carolina?" asked a prominent official of the State Federation of Women's Clubs when talking to the Extension Forester of State College. She further said, "Why, in my town they even have a mill where they are buying and cutting dogwood timber for commercial purposes."

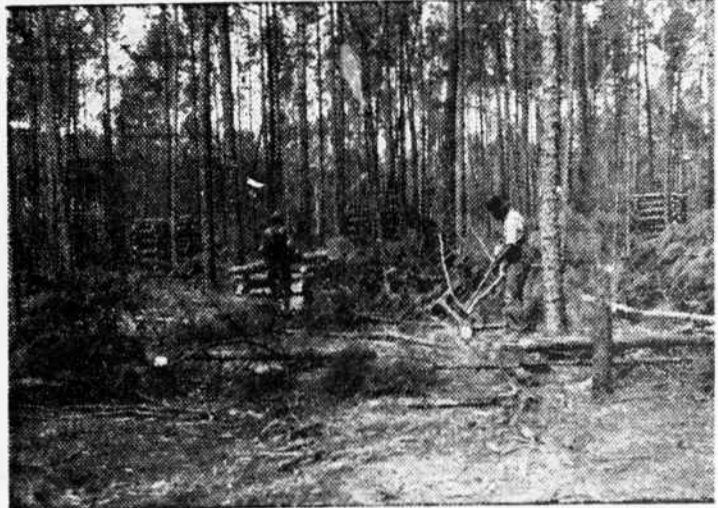
I had to confess that I was responsible for the establishment of this dogwood mill as well as several others in various parts of North Carolina. But before further argument started, I quickly explained that the harvesting of commercial dogwood need not destroy the beauty of the woods. The members of our Woman's Clubs and other organizations are doing a great work in promoting the beautification of our highways and the wooded areas adjacent to the highways, and we want to lend them every aid and encouragement possible in carrying this program into effect. Yet, few people who look at the woods from the aesthetic or sentimental viewpoints are familiar with the practical side of using our forest lands.

Dogwood, when in bloom, presents a beautiful scene; so does a field of "golden" grain. Yet, we don't ask the farmer to refrain from harvesting his crop of wheat—a new crop will take its place next season. The same thing applies to dogwood. It is a crop through which the farmer is able to get some return for his investment in land. Dogwood is a commercial necessity—supplying the wood used in making shuttles for weaving cotton, silk or rayon. No practical substitute for this wood has been found. Dogwood less than five inches in diameter is not merchantable; therefore, when a crop is harvested, all of the younger and more vigorous trees are left for future crops. Thus, there will always be plenty of dogwood to add beauty to our forests.

Dogwood seeds freely, also reproduces from sprouts and root suckers. When one tree is cut, several usually come back in its place. In our plan of management for the farm forest we recommend that dogwood be protected and grown as an understory beneath the high forests of pines, oaks, hickories and other of the larger trees. It is shallow-rooted and does not interfere with the growth of the deeper-rooted trees. As an understory it aids in giving complete shade to the forest floor and adds to the wind protection in the more open stands of pines. Then, too, it is producing a commercial commodity—bringing income to the farm. These are the practical values of dogwood to the individual farmer who owns the land. To the general public dogwood in bloom is one of the gifts of Nature—adding beauty to the landscape and affording food for the soul.

Dogwood is found growing in 87 types of soil in North Carolina, but only on a few of these does it produce wood of a commercial quality. Where it is of commercial value the farmers are protecting the young trees. In other sections it will be hard to eradicate. But the worst enemy to roadside beauty is the landscape "robber or thief" who steals from the landowner and the general public as well when he or she breaks a spray of dogwood along the road. These same thoughtless people would object seriously to someone going into their flower garden and breaking tulips or gladioli.

### TIMBER STORY



**HARVEST**—There is a right and a wrong way to cut timber. Above is shown an area, stripped of all growth, making it impossible for the trees to re-seed themselves. In the middle is shown correct method of cutting, and when these practices are followed a timber stand like the one shown below will result in a few years —if Forest Fires are kept out.

Man causes more than 90 per cent of all forest fires in the South. If he causes them, he can prevent them!

If you burn your own timber, at least spare your neighbors!

#### History Of Forestry Prog. In State Of North Carolina During 1918-19-20.

During this period the greater part of the fire prevention effort had been directed towards organization and maintenance of local fire protection associations. By 1922, however, forest wardens had been appointed in more than twenty counties and they were being supervised by two district foresters, Messrs. C. H. Burrage and Fred B. Merrill.

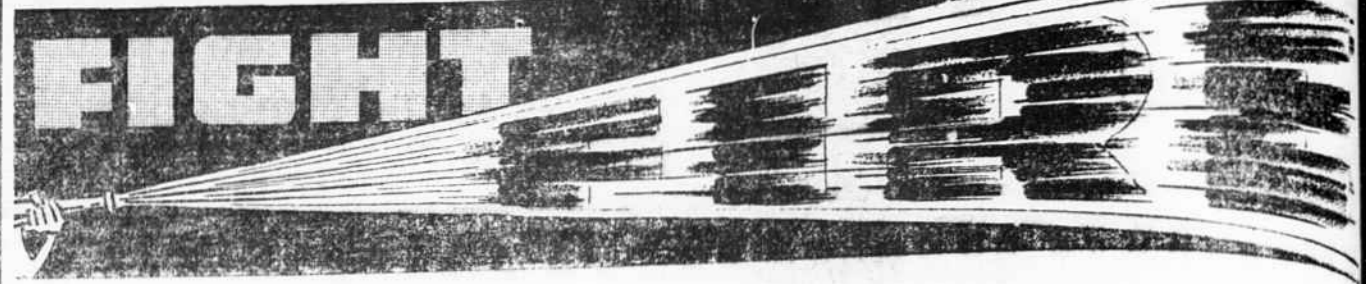
Following the untimely death of Mr. W. D. Clark in March, 1923, Mr. Carl I. Peterson and Mr. K. E. Kimbal were secured as district foresters and in June, 1924, Mr. Harry Lee Barker was employed as Assistant State Forester to be in full charge of the fire-protection organization.

The General Assembly of 1925 reorganizing the Geological and Economic Survey into the Department of Conservation and Development and in the fall of that year, Mr. Harry Lee Barker, who had been with the organization only fourteen months as Assistant State Forester, resigned and Mr. W. C. McCormick took his place. At that time the Clarke-McNary cooperative fund for protection had reached the sum of about \$30,000 annually and some thirty counties which were cooperating with the Department contributed \$10,000 annually towards the fire protection work. In June, 1928, Mr. McCormick resigned and Mr. Charles H. Flory, one of the district foresters, was promoted to the position of Assistant State Forester in charge of the fire-protection work. Mr. Flory resigned in April, 1934, at the depth of the depression when the State appropriation for fire protection had fallen below \$3,000 and the Clarke-McNary federal fund was only \$36,000. At that time thirty-three counties were cooperating although in June, 1931, forty-three counties had cooperated. In May, 1934, Mr. W. C. McCormick returned to take charge of the forest-fire-control work succeeding Mr. Flory. Since then the work has continued to increase in extent and effectiveness. The latest report shows fifty-eight counties cooperating in fire prevention.

In addition to the forest-fire act, the General Assembly of 1915 authorized the acquisition and administration of land for State Forests but no appropriation was made for this purpose

and up to the present time no funds have been made available for the purchase of land for State Forests. However, a law by the same legislature appropriated \$20,000 for the purchase of Mount Mitchell State Park. Although this purchase was made by special commission, Governor Bickett turned the area over to the Geological and Economic Survey for administration in 1916. This was the beginning of our State-Park program. No funds were at first available for its protection and upkeep, but through the sale of some dead wood and in other ways a man was kept there through the fire seasons and from December, 1917, to the present time, a warden has been in constant residence on the park. In 1924, Congress donated Fort Macon Military Reservation to the state to be administered as a State Park. In January, 1926, Judge T. E. Finley and wife donated 140 acres in Wilkes County as Rendezvous Mountain State Park. There were no other State Parks until the emergency conservation program, inaugurated by President Roosevelt in 1933, offered opportunity of developing areas for public recreation as parks, provided the land was in State ownership. Under this program three other parks; namely, Morrow Mountain State Park, Hanging Rock, and Cape Hatteras were acquired by gift or by purchase and are now in process of development. Mr. Thomas W. Morse was appointed in charge of the State Park work in August, 1935, previous to which time the State Forester had handled all such development work as part of the forestry program.

The conservation law of 1925 provided that the Board of Conservation and Development should have "charge of the work of forest maintenance, forest-fire prevention, reforestation, etc." This was interpreted to authorize the establishment and operation of State nurseries, distribution of seedlings to landowners and other aid in forest planting. With a small contribution from the Federal Government under the Clarke-McNary Law, Mr. F. H. Claridge came to the Department in September, 1925, and established a small nursery on land belonging to the State College, which nursery was moved in 1928 to a small tract purchased by the Department for \$1,200. The output continued to be small until the Emergency Conservation Work program enabled us to secure a side camp with the help of which there was produced the past year some three million seedlings. It is expected to nearly double that production this coming season.

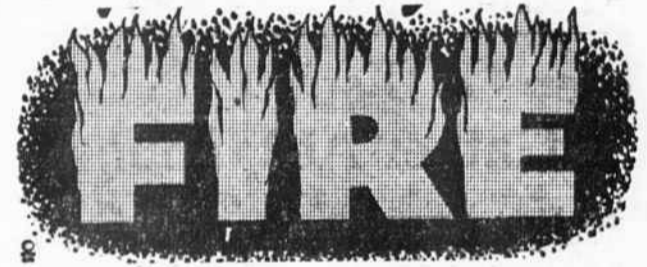


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