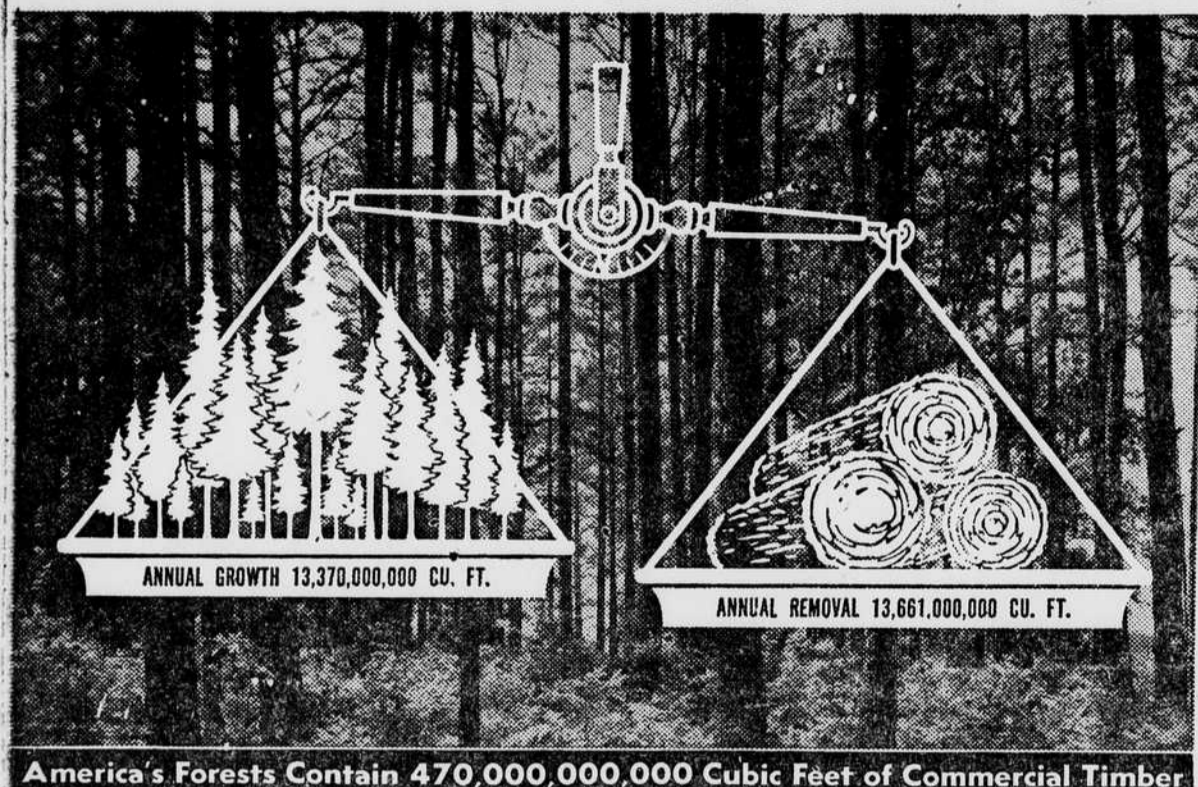


U.S. Forest Growth Shows Gain



America's forests are growing at the rate of more than thirteen billion cubic feet of wood yearly, their greatest recorded growth, according to the forest reappraisal figures just released by the U. S. Forest Service. This is two billion cubic feet greater than in 1936 when the last forest appraisal was made.

The combined figures for sawtimber and cordwood growth indicate that America's wood supply is now being replaced nearly as rapidly as it is cut for use and destroyed by fire, insects or disease. Figures for hardwood growth show trees in this category to be growing faster than they are logged for use or destroyed. However, we are still using our larger trees, classed as sawtimber, hardwood and softwood combined, fifty per cent faster than they are being replenished, the survey shows.

Interpreting the figures, Colonel W. B. Greeley, former U. S. Forest Service Chief and chairman of trustees of the American Forest Products Industries, Inc., pointed out that much of the improved growth is due to a nearly 50 per cent reduction in forest fire losses for the period covered by the appraisal.

"Widespread support for such forest protection campaigns as the Keep America Green program, as well as decreased travel in forested areas during the war years, helped reduce the number of fires," the Colonel stated. "With the upswing in tourist travel, the need for public support of forest protection becomes even more important. Aggressive vigilance is necessary if we are to maintain the gains made during the past ten years. We must do still better."

To bring the growth of sawtimber up to use and loss figures, as well as increase wood production all along the line, Greeley advocated improved forest management as fostered by the nationwide Tree Farms movement. "By good forest practices, we can not only increase the percentage of trees of sawtimber quality," he stated, "we can greatly increase the supply of wood for pulp and paper and every other forest product. We should bring all our forest lands up to full production for whatever timber crop each area is best adapted to grow".

The above chart shows our standing commercial timber as compared with annual growth and removal. This excludes timber in national parks and other timber reserved from any form of harvesting.

General requirements that a World War II veteran must meet in order for his survivors to qualify for social security benefits under the provision of the amendment are:

That the veteran was discharged from the armed forces under circumstances other than dishonorable within four years and a day after the as-yet officially unproclaimed end of World War II; that the veteran had at least 90 days of active duty between September 16, 1940, and the end of the war, or, was discharged because of disability or injury incurred or aggravated in service in line of duty; and that the veteran died within three years of the date of his discharge.

Town Talk

Miss Alice Walker of Washington, D. C., spent two weeks vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Walker.

Misses Josephine Speight and Margaret Speight of Washington, D. C. were week end guests of

their parents Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Speight.



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Urge Filing Applications By Survivors Of Veterans

Only a very few survivors of qualified World War II veterans have filed application for the social security benefits provided by the recent veteran's amendment to the Social Security Act. Marshall Barney, manager of the Rocky Mount office of the Social Security Administration, Post Office Building, reported today in urging the immediate filing of such application by all survivors who may be eligible.

"While it was not expected that there would be any large number of beneficiaries who might qualify at once for the protection extended by the new section of the law, I feel confident that there are a number of persons in the Rocky Mount area who have not yet been in to see us and who should do so as soon as possible," Mr. Barney said.

The office manager explained that that are two groups of survivors eligible to file benefit claims at once on the accounts of qualified veterans who died between the time of their discharge from World War II service and the effective date of the amendment.

"In the first place, there are the families of deceased veterans who are now receiving monthly social security benefit or have received lump sums," Mr. Barney said. "These people may file for a recomputation of benefits, and if it is found that they would be entitled to a larger benefit under the amendment than they are now receiving or have received as the result of social security protection built up by the deceased veteran, they will receive the larger benefit."

"The second group is composed of the survivors of veterans who left no survivors insurance in the old age and survivors insurance

program and survivors who have not claimed insurance they would have been eligible to receive. They may file claim for benefits under the amendment, subject to certain qualification the veteran must have had. Both groups have until midnight February 10, 1947, to come to our office and file applications for monthly benefits, if they are to be sure to receive benefits retroactive to the month

in which the veteran died. I strongly suggest that they take care of this matter as soon as possible."

Survivors who are now receiving Veterans Administration payments cannot qualify for benefits under the Social Security Act amendment, Mr. Barney warned. National Service Life Insurance is not considered as such a payment.

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