

WASTE PRODUCTS VALUABLE

In Fifteen or Twenty Years, According to Experts of the Government Forestry Service, South's Valuable Pine Forests Will Be Wiped Out—A Situation That Calls for Making the Very Best Use of the Present Supply—Steaming Method of the Forest Service Engaged in Experiments.

Washington, Oct. 12.—In fifteen or twenty years, at the present rate of cutting, the supply of the long-leaf yellow pine of the South, one of America's most useful forest trees, will be nearly exhausted, say the experts of the United States forest service. If these pine forests are wiped out, one of the South's important industries will die—the production of the so-called lumber stores.

The lumber of the Southern yellow pine brings \$15 to \$35 per thousand feet, its turpentine 55 cents per gallon, its rosin from \$4.35 to \$4.95 per 250 pounds, and its pitch \$1.25 per 250 pounds. All these prices are gradually becoming higher and higher on account of the increased demand and the scarcity of the products. Formerly, turpentine could be purchased for 30 cents a gallon. Now 56 cents must be paid at wholesale, and the consumer of gallon lots will pay at times as high as \$1.

SERIOUS SHORTAGE AHEAD. In the face of these fast increasing prices, people are still found who say that there is yet an inexhaustible supply of yellow pine in the South, and that talk about a famine is unwarranted. Such statements are not justified by conditions and the yellow pine lumbering industry will soon be in the face of a serious shortage unless decided changes are made in the methods, and unless valuable products now going to waste are utilized. The long-leaf pine is a slow-growing tree and does not make timber with any where near the rapidity that it is being cut. The situation calls for making the very best use of the present supply.

There are at present in the woods of the South vast quantities of pine logs and tall stumps left as a result of careless lumbering in the past. This material is rich in turpentine and could be made to yield from ten to fifteen gallons of refined spirit per cord. Besides this, there is a great waste at the sawmills, in the form of slabs, edgings, and sawdust, all of which must have a value, but at present is for the most part, simply burned to get it out of the way. In fact, not more than 50 per cent. of the tree as it stands in the forest comes to the market in the form of valuable materials.

SURPRISING WASTE. In the year 1906 the reported cut of Southern yellow pine was some twelve billion board feet. A conservative estimate of the amount of turpentine alone, to say nothing of wood fiber and other materials, which could be produced from the waste wood of this year, would place the amount at not less than thirty million gallons. This is a surprising figure, when it is remembered that it represents an amount almost equal to the present annual production of gum spirits in this country. If this product were extracted from the wood and sold at even the current price of good wood turpentine, the gross saving would be easily \$14,000,000.

Men have realized for some time that an enormous waste of valuable substances is going on, and a few have succeeded in extracting the turpentine and placing on the market a material of a fairly good quality. In the majority of cases, however, the article has been of an inferior grade, due generally to the fact that the technical method used has been faulty. As a result of this, wood turpentine is at present often considered as an adulterated material, or at best as a poor substitute for gum spirits. It is true that in some cases these opinions are well founded, but inferior products have put an unnecessary damper on the whole industry.

VALUABLE RESULTS. The section of wood chemistry of the forest service has lately been investigating this subject, and some valuable results have been obtained. It has been found that for the recovery of turpentine from wastewood, the steam distillation process is far superior to that of distilling the wood destructively. The crude turpentine is in all cases more uniform, and the final refined material is a grade of better grade and demand a higher price. When properly made and refined, experiments have shown that the steam turpentines are in many cases even more uniform in composition than the gum turpentines, and for all practical purposes contain the identical substances. The odor often cannot be distinguished from that of the gum spirits, but even if it could, this is a small matter in many cases, as infinitesimal and undetectable amounts of certain impurities left in the refined product can produce this slight difference in odor, and the wood turpentine should not be condemned for practical purposes on this account. This becomes still more evident when it is known that the sweet odor of the gum turpentine is not characteristic of itself, but is due to an impurity produced by the chemical action of air upon it.

STEAM TURPENTINE. These are important discoveries and are well worthy of consideration. If they are true, then refined steam turpentine, properly prepared, should bring at least an equal price in this country with the gum turpentine. Indeed, abroad, this is often the case, and instances are recorded where the refined steam turpentine has, by virtue of its more uniform composition, brought five cents a gallon more than the gum spirits, and is in much greater demand. Further investigations along these lines will be pushed vigorously by the forest service.

Northwest Camp of Veterans Elects Delegates. Special to the Observer. Winston-Salem, Oct. 12.—A called meeting of the Northwest Camp, Confederate Veterans, was held yesterday, at which time delegates to the State convention to be held in Raleigh this week were elected as follows: Capt. D. P. Mast, Dr. J. P. Boone, F. H. Haden, George L. Heck and S. A. Ogden. Alternates were named as follows: Major T. J. Brown, R. R. Crawford, Z. T. Ryan, Dr. J. A. Blum and George E. Nisner. The following named were appointed as a committee to correspond with Mr. Felt Miller with a view of getting him to give an entertainment here for the benefit of the camp: Major T. J. Brown, Dr. J. P. Boone, Z. T. Ryan, and George L. Heck.

CHEROKEE'S VALUATION

The Gaffney Ledger to Be Issued Daily During the Methodist Conference—A Bill for the County in 1908 Now an Assured Thing—Sured Lead Mine to Be Developed Shortly—Other Notes.

Special to the Observer. Gaffney, S. C., Oct. 12.—The following taken from the county auditor's books shows the valuation of property in Cherokee county. Number of acres of land, 210,857; value of lands, \$1,235,766; value of buildings, \$274,973; value of real estate in cities, towns and villages, \$644,853; total value of real estate, \$2,155,592; value of personal property, \$1,536,652; value of railroad property, \$973,473; number of horses 434, value \$4,472; cattle 5,924, value \$64,109; mules 2,710, value \$139,662; sheep and goats 230, value \$244; hogs 2,100, value \$5,374; gold and silver watches and pendants 654, value \$5,649; pianos and organs 515, value \$16,969; carriages 3,409, value \$1,055; dogs 2,098, value \$2,239; total valuation of all personal property, \$2,563,132; total valuation of property both real and personal, \$4,718,724. This is an increase of more than \$400,000 over last year's returns and does not represent more than one-half of the actual value of property in Cherokee county. This reference is to the visible taxable property of the county and does not include any of the valuable mineral deposits which have so recently been brought to light.

Mr. R. A. Ware, who was reported in these columns a few days ago as making 56 bushels of corn on five-tenths of an acre without employing the Williamson method, informs your correspondent that he did use the Williamson method.

Ed H. DeCamp, the enterprising Ledger man, intends to get out a daily edition of his paper during the session of the Methodist Conference which will convene in Gaffney next month. Mr. DeCamp has ample facilities for doing the work, and will doubtless get out a creditable paper during the session.

Only three cases of violating the revenue laws have been sent up to the United States Court from this county since the last term of the court in April—one for working in a distillery and two for retailing.

Cherokee's Court of General Sessions will convene on the 28th of this month, which means that the session of the Gaffney fair will be unable to attend the State fair, which will be going on at the same time. The lawyers here are thinking seriously of applying to Judge C. T. Bridges for an order enjoining the holding of the two events simultaneously.

The Gaffney board of trade held an important meeting Friday night. A committee was appointed to confer with the board of public works and ask that body to order an election for the purpose of voting bonds to put in an adequate sewerage system for Gaffney. The committee was instructed to urge the board to act promptly in the matter and to order the election as soon as the law will allow. Under the recent act of the General Assembly the board may order the election after thirty days' notice.

The question of inaugurating a county fair was also discussed, and it was decided to organize a stock company with a capital of \$10,000. One-fourth of the capital stock was subscribed by those present within fifteen minutes, and a committee of fifteen is now canvassing for subscriptions. Twenty per cent of the subscriptions will be called for March 1st, as by that date the buildings will be under construction. So the question of a county fair for Cherokee in 1908 is assured. Gaffney does not do things by halves; but when she makes up her mind to do a thing she gets busy and does it.

The jury for the next term of court was drawn yesterday, and the sheriff and his deputies are busy serving the papers.

Developments on quite a large scale will be commenced on the Snead lead mine shortly. Keep your eye on Gaffney and Cherokee county.

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