

LUMBER IS BEING RAPIDLY USED UP

State Policy of Reforestation and Conservation Yearly Needed

(Press Service of State Economic Survey.)

Mr. H. A. Carroll, of Rural Hall, N. C., has recently been assisting the Geological and Economic Survey in securing information as to the changes in the supply of timber required by the different wood-using industries of the State. The object of the Survey in conducting this study is to revise the report of these industries, (Economic Paper No. 20), which was published some ten years ago. Although no figures have yet been compiled, Mr. Carroll here gives some interesting conclusions of his own.

According to statements from the great majority of owners of these industries, their greatest need at present and in the future is a supply of suitable timber to be used in their plants. For example, practically all of the owners of the industries visited, stated that the quality of their supply was not nearly so good as it was ten years ago, and that they were having to go farther for what supply they did get. One leading furniture manufacturer in the central part of the State said: "The quality of grades has been lowered and will continue to be lowered. My production is off 50 per cent because of scarcity of timber supply and labor."

One-third of the 155 industries giving reports state that the available supply will be exhausted in 10 to 15 years. Most of the others made no statement concerning future supply, but are evidently trusting the State to adopt a policy of reforestation and conservation which will meet their needs.

Concerning price, several manufacturers from the east, central and western parts of the State say that the cost of the lumber supply has more than doubled during the past ten years.

The following is a statement from a large furniture manufacturer in the Piedmont section: "Supply is getting scarcer and price is five times what it was five years ago. The quality of lumber which we got then at \$30 per M was much better than what we now get at \$150 per M." Another furniture man from a mountain city writes: "Lumber we paid \$40 for in May, 1919, we paid \$248 for in May, 1920." And so the story goes—clearly showing that as the years pass, even common grade lumber is becoming so scarce in most places that the price is advancing by leaps and bounds.

The matter of supply is coming to be a grave problem in many sections of the State. The following statement from one of the largest lumbermen of Eastern Carolina is representative of the opinion of many manufacturers: "Our business is being cut short because of short supply. We once used seven million feet or more per year, but now our consumption is less than four million feet. We need reforestation and stock law." Another manufacturer in the

same county makes a statement almost identical to that above. So after long experience in the planing mill business, these men realize the problem that confronts them in the diminution of supply, and all of them are anxious to see the State take some action that will insure the future of her wood-using industries.

A dozen or more of the owners of these plants have pledged their support to any forward-looking legislation for reforestation and conservation. However, most of these men contend, and I think justly so, that the State should take the lead in this matter. Because after all the whole population of the State is dependent to a greater or less degree upon our forests and forest products. It is estimated that at least 35,000 people in North Carolina are employed in the wood-using industries, and that their annual product is valued at \$40,000,000. It is clearly evident, there-

fore, that this industry, which is the second largest in our State, should not be sacrificed when it can so easily be saved to serve our State and people. The remedy as already suggested is to be found in the adoption of a policy of conservation and reforestation by our State Legislature. This policy should carry with it ample appropriation for its enforcement and expansion. As has previously been suggested, there should be a school of forestry organized and well supported at our State University. This school and other State supported agencies should have as one of their primary objects the enlightenment and education of our rural population in matters of conservation and reforestation. Much of the waste in our forest resources has been due simply to the ignorance of our people on this all important subject. And the greatest opportunity offered is to be found just here—in teaching the strong and steri-

ling people of our rural communities the importance of economy in the use of our forests and other natural resources. Along with the conservative use of their present forests teach them

also the great truth that "It pays to grow trees." Only through the education and co-operation of all our people can the forest resources serve their intended purpose, and the gully river

sides of our barren hills be healed and made a gain to clothe themselves in the choicest robe of nature—the robe of green trees, the companion and servant of mankind.

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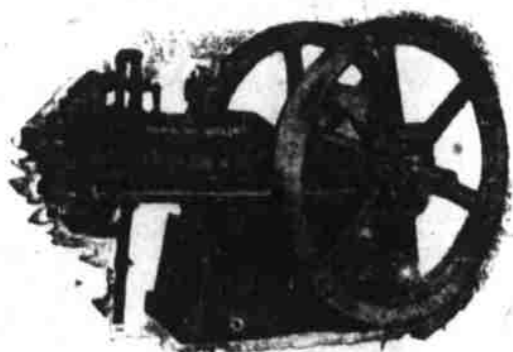
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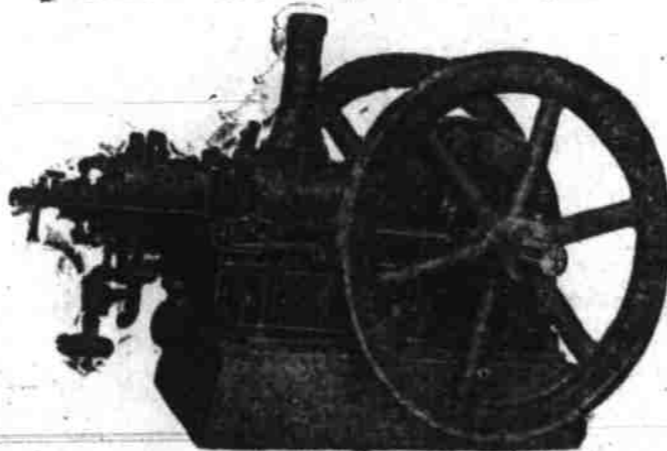
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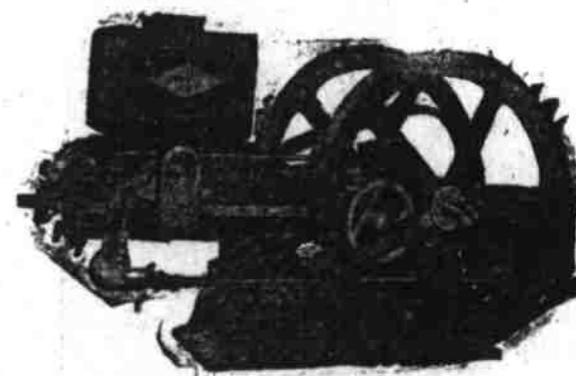
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