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The ransom of the Lord shall return and come with singing into Zion—Isaiah 35:10.

A Terrific Drain

Leaders in the state forestry service have hit upon what appears to offer an effective method of dealing with a serious situation in the constant loss of great wealth in North Carolina through the ravages of forest fires. In forming the Four-H club members for cooperation and assistance they may be assured, we believe, of all the enthusiasm of youth in the battle to reduce this terrific drain on timber resources.

Forester Gendler is turning to the rural preacher to lend a hand, and has even gone so far as to suggest the text for a sermon on forestry conservation taken from the Genesis story of God's instructions to Adam to "keep and dress the garden." The preachers are called on in so many movements, perhaps all of them worthy but many of them somewhat removed from the mission and function of the man of God. In protecting the forests, however, there is a deep thought of the conservation of a divine gift to man—just so this idea is not permitted to displace the minister's first duty, that of preaching the gospel of salvation to a lost world. The preachers may not in some instances be the power they once were in leadership of the people, since so many individuals have gone off after other goals, but their influence is still great.

Statistics assembled in connection with the forestry conservation program are rather shocking for their seriousness. Who would have thought, for instance, that in a single year more than \$15,000,000 worth of timberland in North Carolina was swept by fire? Or that in 1945 the loss from 2,450 forest fires amounted to \$460,000?

Already more than two thousand new forest fire fighters have been recruited in the person of Four-H boys sixteen years of age and older. They will serve with fire wardens in the sixty-three counties that maintain forest fire service. Their work will be entirely voluntary. It may not be as spectacular as some other endeavor, but it will not be surprising if some heroes are born in this undertaking.

The forestry service says that greatest damage to the forests occur in the spring. That season is now here. It is time, therefore, that some thought be given to protection of this vast source of wealth in the State. Nor should the fact be lost sight of that, entirely aside from its intrinsic value, lumber is coming to be a scarce article. There are, to be sure, vast areas covered with trees, but consumption is at a terrific rate, for all purposes combined—greater apparently than replacements. Actually, Americans are not yet awake to the seriousness of the threat to their wood supply, which is the source of much building material, pulp for paper-making, and even for fuel in rural and some urban areas.

It is possible already to envision the time when wood will cease to exist in the abundance hitherto known, unless steps are taken to conserve the supply and to grow new forests to replace those which are cut over and which furnish the timber for the American market.

Too many have taken the forestry service as just another government activity, as something to furnish jobs or to cooperate with this or that agency or activity. But it is far more than that. As the years pass it will become of still greater importance, and may assume a vital role in our own national life. Because of the long time required for maturity, timber crops have not made the impression they should upon the people generally. Properly cultivated,

however, trees can be made to yield a steady income through the years for those who have the patience and the vision to work with them. The time will come when they will pay richer dividends than most people now realize.

The youth of the state—and of the nation—are those who stand to profit most by both conservation and cultivation. Four-H clubbers of today have their lives ahead of them. And they can build for a profitable future if they begin now. Their enlistment in the forest fire protection program could serve to arouse them to these vast possibilities of the years that await them.

GRAB BAG

One-Minute Test.

1. What counterfeit animal caused the downfall of a great city?
2. What story book character swam in a pool created by her own tears?
3. What Mother Goose character wanted white bread and butter so much he sang for it?

Words of Wisdom.

We can do more good by being good than in any other way.—Howland Hill.

Hints on Etiquette.

At a school or private dance it is customary to "own up." At public dances or night clubs one cuts in only in his own group. A man never should cut in on a couple with whom he is not acquainted.

Today's Horoscopes.

A birthday today means that you have material talent which should be developed. You are restless in your opinions, but when thoroughly convinced, stand with good grace. You have a clear and alert mind and keen foresight. You are also capable of a deep and surprising love. Hasty words can lead to an uncalmed quarrel early this morning, so try to control your temper and tongue. Later a friend's suggestions may lead to improving your financial picture. After your setback and rest cure the most forms of passing time be an extract this morning, don't try to probe into secrets, confidence or motives. Around noon cutting remarks may be as helpful as a knife. Be patient and simply listen. Mars enters Leo at 2:25 p. m.

One-Minute Test Answers.

1. The Trojan horse which was full of Greek soldiers and caused the fall of Troy.
2. Alice in Wonderland.
3. Little Tommy Tucker, who sang for his supper. What did he sing for? White bread and butter.

ANSWERS TO DAILY QUIZ

Below are the correct answers to the quiz questions printed on back page.

1. True (when he defeated Iron Mike Works in a one fall match in 20 minutes).
2. Is not (it is a ground squirrel).
3. Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, and Turkey.
4. New Zealand.
5. True.
6. New Jersey.
7. Light colored animals with dark stripes.
8. Portugal.
9. Utrique.
10. Isaac Walton.

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G. Sam Eastwood

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