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BETTER CARE OF THE TIMBER CROP AS A GUIDE POST TO "\$500 MORE A YEAR"



A HARDWOOD FOREST IN THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS.

THE FORESTS OF THE South are one of its greatest sources of wealth; and if the proper care be taken of them, they will continue to add to the income of Southern farmers, through all the years to come. We have said a great deal about State and National forest reservations and about what should be done by the Government to protect the forests—and there can be no question that the States and the National Government should take active measures to prevent the needless destruction of our forests, and all the loss by flood and drought and changed climatic conditions that such waste must necessarily bring. The Appalachian Forest Reserve is a matter in which every farmer from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River should feel a personal interest; for the destruction of the forests on these mountains means floods and corresponding periods of low water in every stream which rises in them.

But the more pressing and individual problem for each farmer is the care of his own woodlands. Many acres in the South now in timber will of necessity be cleared up as time goes on; but there is all too much clearing of forest lands now taking place. We need to take better care of the lands now in cultivation rather than to clear up more; and whenever the timber is taken off of a piece of land every stick of it should be utilized as far as is possible. Timber worth millions of dollars has been burned by men who were in a hurry to get a piece of land ready for cultivation; and in many cases the timber would now be worth more than the land is in its present condition. Such waste as this must stop, as must also the burning over of forest lands, the reckless destruction of the young growth by grazing or careless cutting, and the old crude methods of turpentine gathering and lumbering.

We trust that every one of our readers will realize that his timber is a crop to be handled the same as any other crop. That is, to be harvested when ready for market, to be sold to best advantage, and to be given the best possible opportunities for future growth. When we treat our woodlands in this way they will be the sources of enduring and, in many cases, steadily increasing incomes.

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