

a royalty of from two to eight per cent is levied on all minerals extracted.

The activities of the Forest from which money returns are received include timber sales, grazing, special uses (land rentals, mining permits, etc.), water power, and fire trespass. The income from these sources form the first tract of land were acquired in 1914 to June 30, 1924, totaled \$51,537.00, and varied annually from \$412.00 for the fiscal year 1924 to \$18,623.00 for the fiscal 1924. Eighty-five per cent of this revenue was from the sale of timber.

In accordance of the Act of March 4, 1907, twenty-five per cent of the gross receipts of the Forest is paid to the counties in which the Forests are located for the benefit of public schools and roads. An additional ten per cent is expended by the Forest Service in the construction and maintenance of roads and trails within the counties.

Public Recreation. The Nantahala is one of the 157 National Forests which are visited during the vacation of 1924 by nearly eleven million people. Recreation, like timber, water power, grazing, etc., is a forest resource which will be developed to its fullest extent. The necessary climate and scenery we have with us, and there remains only the question of their accessibility, which is being brought about by road and trail construction as rapidly as funds will permit. Road construction is being followed by the establishment of public camp grounds by the setting aside of areas and their classification of the form of development desirable. The object of a careful study and classification is that each site may serve its highest use for affording recreation and enjoyment to the greatest possible number of people. Municipal or State camp picnic grounds, boy scout camps, public summer schools, commercial hotel, camps, or resorts, are favored as against the more exclusive forms of development.

Roads and Trails. The program of road and trail construction and maintenance and including a system of transportation and administration of the Forest and the full development of the timber and other resources. One hundred and seventy-five miles of trails have been constructed and are under maintenance, which brings the trail system to more than three-fourths completion until the Forests is extended by future purchases. The road program has only commenced, and construction work is being pushed as rapidly as funds will permit. On July 1, 1924, 32 miles of road had been constructed at a total cost of \$270,588.32. The road under maintenance on that date, including the above and a number of existing

county roads, total 94 miles, the total maintenance cost being \$24,332.97.

The completion of the present road plan includes approximately 200 of new construction and betterment of existing roads, estimated to cost in the neighborhood of five hundred thousand dollars.

Scenic Values. The area included in the Nantahala Forest contains a quality and variety of scenery most of which is unsurpassed. This is borne out by the thousands of tourists who visit the region not only once but many times.

The Forest is made accessible to the tourists or pleasure seekers from points on the Tallulah Falls Railway from Clarksville north to Franklin, from points on the branch of the Southern Ry. between Ashville and Murphy, and from Highland, N. C., which points are reached by auto, either by an eighteen mile trip from Dillard, Ga., or a thirty-one mile trip from Wauhatchie, S. C. A system of graded highways, complete and under process of construction, makes the Forest accessible by auto from all near-by cities.

The Enemies of the Forest.

Fire. Fire is the greatest enemy, not only of the Nantahala Forest, but of forests in general, and the past history of fire in the region, before the Nantahala Forest was created, is one of unrestricted burning. Prior to the pacing the Forest under administration, no fire records are available, as to the possible annual acreage burned. From evidence on the ground and from the general knowledge of the local citizens, fires were the rule, whenever weather conditions permitted, and burned entirely unchecked by human agencies, except whenever they endangered fences, buildings or similar property. They were started intentionally to improve the range (a mistaken idea—now generally given up), to cover evidence of blockading, to improve chestnut hunting, and evidently sometimes "just to see them burn." Carelessness amounting to indifference on the part of the brush burners, hunters, operators of sawmills, and of railroad locomotives, etc., played a large part.

Damage from unrestricted burning is evidenced by shallow, poor and easily eroded soils, small quantity and low quality of timber, and the absence of young growth for a future crop.

The development of the Forest, with its many resources, is dependent of fire control of fires; and, in order to be successful the full and hearty cooperation of the public is essential, and support is something which should not need solicitation. The Forest is owned by the public, and it goes without saying that the public should make ever endeavor to protect its interest. Every local citizen has the additional interest in his

county, which receives direct benefit from the form of Forest receipts, one-fourth of which is returned direct to the county, and one-tenth expended by the Forest Service on roads within its boundaries.

Insect and Blight. Insect infestation and blight are lesser enemies of the Forest, the former being confined largely to the yellow pine beetle, which frequently kills all small patches of yellow pine timber, usually if a few acres, less, in extent.

The chestnut blight, however, is an enemy of vital importance, which is just beginning to gain foothold on the chestnut of this section, being first discovered within the Forest boundaries in 1924. This blight started in the New England States, has extended south, killing all chestnut in its path, and now occurs in scattered path, throughout Western North Carolina and North Georgia. Judging by its usual rate of speed, the next twenty to thirty years will see the end of the chestnut on the Nantahala Forest. With chestnut forming about fifty per cent of our present stand of timber and with its quick growth and well-known value as a commercial tree species, the seriousness of the situation is apparent.

There is no means of combatting or checking this blight, and there remains only the remedy of using the chestnut timber and products as rapidly as possible in advance of the attack. Our management plans for timber utilization, therefore, provide for the early and rapid selling of chestnut.

The Future Forest

In visualizing and planning for the Nantahala Forest of the future, it is assumed that funds will continue to be provided by Congress for the further acquisition of lands, the construction and maintenance of roads, trails, and other improvements, and for adequate protection and administration.

The present area of approximately one quarter of a million acres should be doubled and consolidated and will be made accessible by roads and trails, so that all resources can be fully developed. With fire control well in hand and the markets of the future enabling the close utilization of timber. The Forest will be a self-supporting unit, producing a continual supply of raw material for dependent industries. This situation as to area and fire control will result in maximum benefit of stream flow protection to fully develop water power industries.

Recreational use will undoubtedly increase more rapidly than any other, and the main highway of the near future, together with a complete system of forest roads and trails, should enable the Nantahala Forest to fulfill the requirements of the most

discriminating pleasure seeker.

The Forest Organization and Public

The pivot position on the National Forest that of Forest Ranger, in charge of the smallest unit of organization, the Ranger District, and that of Forest Supervisor, in charge of the individual Forest. Above these positions follow in line that of District Forester, in charge of the geographical division or group of Forests, and the Forester, chief of the entire Forest Service. Forest Rangers, on the Nantahala Forest are located at Clayton, Georgia, Highlands, N. C., and Franklin, N. C., and the District Forester in charge of the Eastern Group of Forests, at Washington, D. C.

The keynote of National Administration is service. Forest officers are agents of the people and their duty is to carry out the rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture for the administration of the Forest and to assist the public in making use of Forest resources.

The public is invited to use and enjoy the resources of the Nantahala Forest will be accorded every courtesy and consideration by its officers.

The Importance of Forest Resources Coupled With Conservation

Statistics show that three-fifths of the timber originally in the United States is gone, and that we are cutting all classes of timber faster than we are growing it. One-half of the remaining timber in the Continental United States is in three states bordering the Pacific Ocean necessitating an enormous expenditure in freight by the eastern center of population. The supply of hardwood timber, in which the Nantahala Forest plays its part, is now limited to the Southern Mississippi Valley and the Southern Appalachians. Scarcity of the supply, due to past lumbering operations and repeated fires, has already reduced production in the latter region.

In view of these facts, it is very evident that every acre of timberland must be utilized for growing timber and that the removal of successive crops of timber must be managed in such a way as to secure the closest possible utilization and to secure future production. Unfortunately, in the past, forest products have been handled much in the same manner as the products of the mine, without regard for the future, rather than as a crop to be succeeded by future crops.

Conservation through use, therefore, is the solution of the timber problem and it is this form of development which is back of the plans and policies in effect on the Nantahala Forest.

THE DR. F. L. SILER MEMORIAL

Several months ago some of the friends of Dr. Siler, suggested that instead of placing a memorial to him in the cemetery, that something useful be done in his memory.

A Community House was spoken of. A one story building of brick, one half of which would be a Club room large enough to accommodate the social organizations of the town and where women and children from the country would find a rest room. The other half of the building to be used as kitchenette and toilets.

Each Club using the Community House would pay a small rental which would go toward paying an attendant to keep the place in order.

A house to answer this purpose would have to be on or near Main street, right in town.

Dr. Siler being such a public spirited man with the welfare of the county always at heart, and having spent his life in such unselfish service for the people of the county, it was deemed advisable to request the county commissioners for a piece of land for this building. The commissioners would have to be authorized by the legislature to give this property.

So the matter was taken up with our representatives at the meeting of the last General Assembly. They gladly granted the request but when they went to draft the bill, they were confronted with Article I, section 10, which states that under these conditions the building would belong to and be under control of the state.

Therefore the matter of the Memorial building has been dropped for the present as there are not available funds for the purchase of the property and the building too.

There is nothing our town needs so much as a Community Center of this kind for both county and town use, and surely no one with a memory more worthy of perpetuation in some useful form, than that of Dr. Siler.

This word of explanation is due those in different parts of the county who were interested in the passing of the bill, and to those who are interested in the stone. This is why the matter of the stone has been held up. To those who were waiting to see what was going to be done about the building and to those who intend to contribute to the stone, we wish to say that the stone will be purchased. So those who have expressed a desire to take part in this and have not yet done so can see Mr. W. W. Sloan as the committee desires to close the matter up at an early date.

Where Your Home Begins

Your HOME was once just a HOUSE.

And back of that it was a conglomerate mass of BUILDING MATERIALS, without definite form or substance, only a reality as you visualized it in your mind.

Yes, that pretty home of today was once packed away in our warehouse in neat stacks labelled:—Framing, Sheeting, Roofing, Flooring, Wallboard, Glass, Windows, Sash and Doors, Lime and Cement, Hardware.

It was all there, only waiting for you to come and haul it away, and put it in the form your heart desired.

The Great Teacher once said, "In my Father's house are many mansions!"

In all reverence we want to paraphrase that statement in saying—

IN OUR WAREHOUSE ARE MANY HOMES!

You don't need to look at catalogs, get estimates from outside sources, and figure tedious freight rates. All of these things we have done for you. And the materials for your house—**ALL THE MATERIALS**—are here in Franklin, ready to use.

All you have to do is decide on your plan and engage your carpenters.

The rest is our job.

IN OUR WAREHOUSE ARE MANY HOMES!

Franklin Hardware Co.

CUNNINGHAM BUILDING

FRANKLIN, N. C.