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AMHERST DOES WELL.
Virginia County That Has Learned the Great Value of Good Roads.
Amherst, Va., March 14.—Amherst County claims to be in the front rank of good roads counties in the Virginia map.
The county has voted and issued road-improvement bonds to the amount of \$215,000. There has been made and completed approximately thirty-seven miles of improved macadam roads. The work is still in progress and will be continued until the fund is exhausted. It is contemplated that approximately thirty more miles of road will be constructed with the fund. In addition to the macadam road, numerous small concrete and iron bridges have been constructed on the roads.

Great Car Ferry.
The new car ferry that will transport railway trains across the St. Lawrence River, between Quebec and Lévis, is not only equipped as an ice-breaker, but has a tidal dock, which can be raised or lowered within a range of twenty feet. This tidal dock has three lengths of track, each 276 feet long, and is capable of carrying a train of 1,000 tons weight. The craft was built in England for the Canadian government.

Looking at Eggs Through a Knot Hole.
In the current issue of Farm and Fireside a contributor tells, as follows, how he catches his eggs:
"A knot hole a little over one inch in diameter in the sunny side of our barn serves as a very satisfactory egg-trap for duck, geese and hen eggs. With the doors closed and the windows blinded, the room is quite dark, and by holding the egg close to the opening when the sun is shining brightly, I am able to determine, after five days of incubation, the fertility from the infertile."

Virginia Cannery.
The Virginia Cannery Association had a good meeting in Roanoke, which was fully reported in this paper. The convention decided to meet next November at Fredericksburg, and elected F. D. Bolton, president; J. W. Huddleston, vice-president; W. C. Smiley, secretary; treasurer, and F. D. Bolton, J. W. F. Huddleston, W. C. Smiley, W. F. Crumacker, C. E. Bolton, R. L. Moonaw, W. C. Spitzer, W. P. Barby, G. B. Jamison, J. L. Fisher, S. W. Huddleston, D. William Good, J. W. Brown, H. A. Stanley, Will Buckner, G. C. Flora and J. J. Fisher, executive committee.

Tobacco Report From Danville.
Danville, Va., March 14.—Owing to unfavorable weather and the bad condition of the roads, the tobacco market has been quiet and has not opened since early in the season. Some very good tobacco are still being offered, but much of it for several weeks has been shipped from smaller markets and quite common prices hold firm on all grades with a slight advance in the medium grades over the past year or two, and the finer grades of wrappers and cutters slightly under, as noted previously.

The Dillwyn Market.
Buckingham, Va., March 14.—There have been sold on the Dillwyn tobacco market 1,000,000 pounds of tobacco, and but for the unfavorable weather for handling the crop would have been nearly all. W. H. Giesche, of Nicholas, S. C., is managing this market with an able corps of assistants.

Hotels

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PROTECTING THE VIRGINIA FORESTS

One of Best Bills That Passed Through Legislative Hands This Year.

TREES MUST BE PROTECTED

Law That Will Do Great Good if Properly Administered and Enforced.

Friends and owners of the forests of Virginia—and they are legion—are elated over the passage of the "forestry bill" by the General Assembly. The popularity of this measure is attested by its unanimous adoption in the Senate, and the vote of 56 to 3 in the House of Delegates. Governor Stuart has expressed himself as highly pleased with this legislation, and will undoubtedly sign the bill when it reaches him.
The credit for this constructive legislation belongs largely to Senator J. G. Shackburn Smith, who introduced the bill, and by his earnest and energetic efforts brought it successfully through the State legislative assembly. Senator Smith's efforts were ably supplemented by Judge Martin Williams and the patrons of the bill in the House—Messrs. Steink, Robertson, Hower, Oliver, Grasty, Spazzard, Willis and Duke.

The Bill as It Is.
The bill provides that the State Geological Commission shall direct the forestry organization, and shall appoint a State forester who shall have active supervision of all forest interests and matters pertaining to forestry in the Commonwealth. The principal duties of the commission are to inaugurate a system of protection from forest fires, instruct and encourage private owners in preserving and managing their timber holdings, and to investigate other forestry problems, such as the best methods of reforesting cut-over and waste lands and methods of improving and conserving the waters in the streams and rivers of the State.
The commission is authorized to cooperate with the United States Forest Service, and under this provision \$50,000 to \$100,000 becomes available annually for protecting the forests at the headwaters of navigable streams. Prior to the next meeting of the General Assembly in 1916, the bill provides that the expenses of administration shall be paid out of the budget of the University of Virginia.

At one time it was feared that the bill would fail because of lack of time for its consideration in the House of Delegates, but the friends of the forestry movement in every part of the State, including farmers, timber owners, lumbermen and many others who have the future welfare of the State at heart, rallied to its support. Even then the bill was in danger, and it is believed that had it not been for the patriotic sentiments expressed by the press of the city of Richmond and the State, it would probably have gone over until another session. The bill had the hearty approval of the University of Virginia, the American Forestry Association, the forestry committee of the Southern Commercial Congress, the National Conservation Association, and the United States Forest Service.

As in Other States.
Virginia's forestry bill is founded on the law which has been in successful operation in Kentucky for a number of years, and is closely related to the laws which have been in effect in Maryland, North Carolina and many other States. Virginia has been one of the least progressive States, heretofore, in caring for her forests, but this bill enables her to begin the development of a resource which is next to agriculture in importance.
The progress of forestry in the various States has been remarkable a decade ago but few States gave the subject any serious attention at all. Today no less than twenty-five have active forest departments, the majority of which employ professional State foresters, and twenty have efficient fire protective systems. Five States have attempted to solve the forest taxation problem by enacting legislation which permits forest land to be classified separately and the bulk of the tax placed on the yield—that is, on the timber when cut—while others have taken steps to provide such legislation. Fourteen have established state forests, with an aggregate area of more than 3,400,000 acres. In 1912 ten States maintained forest tree nurseries that produced nearly 15,000,000 small trees, about half of which were distributed to private owners at cost.

The need for better care of Virginia's forests is apparent to every thinking man. We are more fortunate than many other States because of our large forest area—some 15,000,000 acres, or about one-half of the area of the State—and also because a considerable portion of this forest area still bears virgin timber. Those who have followed the rapid rise in the prices of standing timber, and consequently, of lumber, realize more fully than the average person what enormous losses are caused each year by forest fires. In Virginia, at a conservative estimate, the destruction of timber, both standing and felled, cord wood, fences, etc., due to forest fires amounts to at least \$250,000 annually. To this must be added thousands of dollars loss from insects, both before and after fires have gone through, from tree diseases such as the irresistible chestnut blight, which is beginning to devastate the forest of this State as it has those to the northward.

Another source of loss is the abuse of our forests, due to the general disregard and downright ignorance that prevails in forest management. Lumbermen frequently are guilty of wasting valuable timber by permitting too great a portion of the upper, limby part of the trunk to remain unused. Trees are cut only once, and are harvested once in fifty or 100 years, instead of every year, as are agricultural crops. It is not only necessary to see that needless waste of timber is avoided when lumbering is done, just as it is forestry to insure a second crop of timber on lands which are most profitable when kept for timber production. In most sections of Virginia there are so many varieties of valuable timber trees that come up naturally after lumbering, if forest fires are kept out, that it will seldom be necessary to plant trees to get a second crop. The forester knows of several different ways in which to make sure to secure a good young growth, and he also knows how to increase the rate of growth by thinning and pruning. The methods that must be used to obtain these highly profitable results must be varied to suit the conditions, as in agriculture, the more valuable the crop and the closer the market, the more intensive the methods that may be employed.

In Germany, where forestry is well established, the State forests pay an annual profit, clear of all expenses, of over \$6 per acre per year. In Virginia the average timber tract or wood lot probably pays not much more than a dollar per acre per year, owing to lack of care and poor methods of cutting and marketing.
There are also thousands of acres of land that are not paying the State or individual any profit because the merchantable timber has been cut and forest fires have killed all seedlings and young growth of valuable tree species, burned up the humus and fallen leaves, making a barren, unproductive waste. Much of even this class of land will reforest itself, but some of it

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THOMAS FAISON, Secretary,
711 East Broad Street.

can only be made to again produce timber by planting trees.
Beginning High. The forestry solution by the State Forestry Department are so large and so varied, and the lack of funds is such a serious handicap, that nothing more than the simplest kind of a beginning is possible within the next two years. Undoubtedly the first and most serious problem is that of preventing forest fires, and until fires are controlled, money spent in forest planting or management is wasted.
The effects of fire are many and often little understood or noticed. Thus, the ordinary, light ground fire, which is not thought of as doing damage, burns up the leaf-litter and vegetable mold, which is so valuable in soil fertility. From this alone the loss is enough to warrant great care in excluding fire. Then, if there is any seedling reproduction on the ground, this is generally killed off, so that desirable new stock cannot get established.
If the fire is a bit more severe, enough injury is done to the standing trees to check growth, or at least weaken the vitality of the trees. Generally a wound is produced, through which disease or insects can enter and thus kill or seriously affect the tree. Frequently the young saplings and small poles are killed outright, and thus only mature trees, past their prime, are left standing. These are generally injured, so that their value is greatly decreased. Sometimes the fire is severe enough to wipe out all the stand.
If a practical, well-trained man is chosen to head this work in Virginia, he can accomplish much, even with very limited funds, to educate the people of the State in the better care of the forest, and lay the foundation for an efficient forest fire protection service.

Sales at Lynchburg.
Lynchburg, Va., March 14.—John D. Oglesby, of the Lynchburg Tobacco Warehouse Company (Inc.), makes the following report of leaf tobacco sold on the Lynchburg market:
Sold week ending March 12, 1914, 65,000 pounds; sold week ending March 12, 1913, 60,000 pounds; decrease this week, 5,000 pounds.
Sold from September 1, 1913, to March 13, 1914, 12,342,100 pounds; sold from September 1, 1912, to March 13, 1913, 12,091,500 pounds; increase for 1914, 250,600 pounds.
Receipts the first part of the week were

are advised. Quotations:

Leaf, common	4.25	8 1/2
Leaf, good	4.00	8 1/2
Leaf, short	3.00	11.00
Leaf, good	10.00	11.00
Leaf, wrapper	10.00	11.00
Leaf, wrapper	15.00	13.00

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