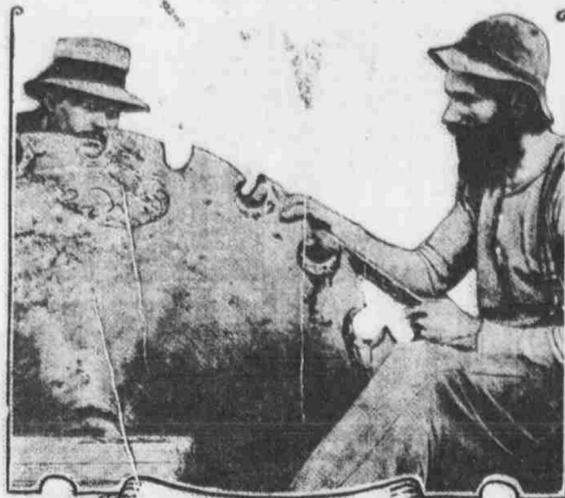


How Uncle Sam Handles Mighty American Forests



THE THICK SAWS CAUSE MILLIONS OF WASTE

(Copyright, 1911, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

THIS week I have spent at the forestry bureau gathering the latest information as to Uncle Sam's woodlands. The figures are so great that the mind cannot comprehend them, and the only way to understand them is by simple comparisons. Take, for instance, the woods which covered this country along about 1600, at the time that Captain John Smith landed at the mouth of the James. They had an area greater than one-third of all Europe, and considerably more than one-fourth of the whole United States, including Alaska. The forestry service estimates that the stand of merchantable timber then equaled more than 5,000,000,000 feet, or enough to construct a board walk a foot wide and an inch thick, and 1,000,000,000 miles long. That amount of lumber would have covered a board walk ten feet wide from the earth to the sun, and still left enough over to have belted the waist of old Mother Earth at the Equator with a band three and one-half miles wide. The remainder, if cut into flooring, could have carpeted New England, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland. The total area of the wood land was 500,000,000 acres, and the merchantable timber 5,000,000,000 feet. That is what we had at the beginning.

Our Mighty Forests.

Before I tell you what has become of this mighty property let me describe in a nutshell just what it was. Uncle Sam's foresters have told me the story. The woods were in five great tracts. There were the northern forest, the southern forest, the central forest, the Rocky mountain woods and the Pacific woods. The northern forest was the home of the white pine, covering an area about six times as great as that of Ohio and containing enough lumber to have made a belt of boards an inch thick and a mile and a half wide around the globe. The southern forest was largely of yellow pine and of cypress, but the trees were not so large, and in board feet it was just about equal that of the north. The central forest, which lay between, was nearly all hardwood; it had an area much larger than the woods north and south, and the lumber within it was about half as much more as either of the others. It would have made a band around the earth at least two miles in width.

And then came the Rocky mountain forest, composed chiefly of cone-bearing trees. This contained only 10,000,000 acres, and the lumber upon it was about 40,000,000 board feet. The Pacific forest was still smaller in area, but it had the biggest trees in the country. It had the Douglas fir, the redwood and western yellow pine; it had the giants of the forest, and the scientists here say that its trees were the largest and that they contained more lumber than any other known to history or geology. The area of the forest was just about equal to two states the size of Pennsylvania, but the stand was so great that it equaled the hardwood central forest of the east, and if cut into inch boards it would have sufficed to belt the globe with a board walk two miles in width.

Our Lumber Supply in 1911.

Now let us see what is left. Our board walk to the sun has been just about cut in half, and the same is true of the left-over. A walk could still be made, but it would be only five feet in width, and the board belt around the equator would be considerably less than two miles in width. Fully one-half of the merchantable timber has disappeared; it has been cut down, burnt up and wasted in every possible way; some of it has gone into buildings, but a vast amount has been absolute waste.

The northern forest has lost 40 per cent of its area, the southern almost as much, and of the central forest more than one-half has been cleared. Of the Rocky mountain woods we have still 98 per cent, and of the Pacific forest almost as much. Altogether we have remaining about 2,500,000,000 feet of timber, and of this one-fifth belongs to the government and is being properly cared for; the balance is in the hands of private individuals, of corporations, syndicates and trusts, and it is going so fast that if the present rate continues, in twenty or twenty-five years it will be all cut away.

Our Big Lumber Cut.

In 1909 the trees that went into timber were enough to have made a board walk 1,000 feet wide running right through the center of the earth from one side to the other. The amount was more than 44,000,000,000 feet, board measure; and, in addition, a vast amount of wood was used for other purposes. The forestry bureau estimates that we are now annually consuming 20,000,000,000 cubic feet of good timber. Divide that into posts a foot square. Stand them on the earth and let them prop up the moon. You can make fifteen or sixteen such posts, and each of them would reach all the way to our little water planet and still leave millions of cubic feet for cross pieces to bolt the world together.

And where did all this lumber go? In addition to the vast amount which went into boards, more than 1,000,000,000 feet were consumed in fence rails, posts and telegraph poles; 118,000,000 feet, mostly white oak, went into ties for the rail-

roads. 185,000,000 cubic feet were used for timbering mines and 1,200,000 cords of wood were turned into alcohol. Many million cords of firewood were burnt. A vast amount of timber was used for staves and heads of barrels, and enough barrel hoops were turned out to give five to every man, woman and child in the United States and leave some to spare.

We used more than 3,000,000 cords of native wood in our paper mills; this was mainly spruce and hemlock, and millions went into notions of one kind or other. The toolpick, for instance, is little more than a splinter, but we have one factory in Maine which makes 500,000,000 of them every year. We have other places which turn out clothespins and wooden spoons by the hundreds of millions. Several hundred acres of forests are annually burnt up as matches and more than 3,000 acres are cut into shoe pegs in the space of twelve months. And then, there is the enormous amount that goes into furniture and into carts, carriages and cars of all kinds. The shingles, most of which come from the far west, are 4,700,000,000 in number, and the laths are three times as great. There is a steady increase in all of these products, so that the lumber we are using is beyond conception enormous. All told, it sells for something like \$1,300,000,000 a year; and the business of getting it out and putting it on the market annually employs more than 1,000,000 men, who receive over \$100,000,000 in wages.

Uncle Sam Warns Against Waste. This consumption is enough to make us pause and wonder where we shall get our wood for the future. This is one of the warnings of Uncle Sam, patriarch, who is doing all he can to cut down the waste. In the national forests, of which I write more further on, he has his men on the lookout for fires, and he gives plans for cutting and caring for any private forests so that the woods may last longer. Any man who owns trees can get plans from the forestry service as to how to treat them, and the government will send him experts. Applications for such assistance have been already received from owners of 10,000,000 acres, and in some places only the ripe trees are now cut, and the owners are studying how to keep out the fires.

It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture that, if the private owners will co-operate, the forests of the southern pine belt can be protected for 2 cents per acre per year, and that the northern forests can be watched at a cost of 4 cents per acre, while the Rocky mountain and Pacific coast forests would cost much less. They estimate that all the forests in private hands could be protected from fires for less than \$100,000,000 per year, and thus result in a saving of far more than that in the value of the timber, and in the preservation of the young trees for the future.

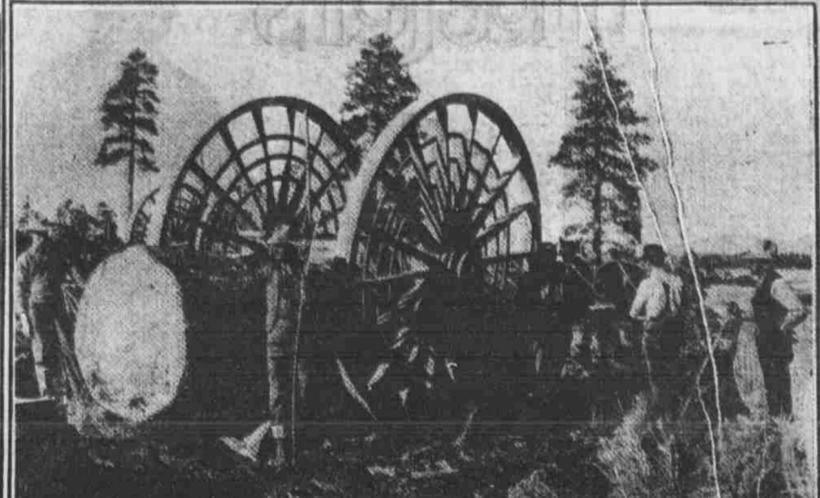
The government is doing all it can to cut down the waste; it sends out advice to the lumbermen as to how to handle the timber, and to the managers of the saw mills as to the best kinds of machinery. Many of the railroad ties are now hewed out with an axe; if cut with the saw, this alone will save more than 280,000,000 cubic feet of wood every year. About two-thirds of the wood in trees chopped down for lumber is lost, and a large part of that intended for mine timbers, cooperage and piles goes to waste. The government gives advice as to how to handle the timber in order to keep out the insects and rot. The insects annually destroy more than 800,000,000 cubic feet, but this may be prevented by soaking the timber in chemicals. The same method is used against rot, something like 1,400,000,000 feet of boards being so treated last year. We are now using about 60,000,000 gallons of creosote and 15,000,000 pounds of zinc chloride for this purpose.

As to losses by fire, they are still of enormous extent. From 1899 to 1909 they averaged \$20,000,000 per annum. Of all the private forests not more than 1 per cent has now an efficient system of fire protection, and only the largest of the private owners keep a forest fire patrol. The government estimates that about one-fourth of all the timber logged out in the forest goes to waste. This comes from careless cutting, the leaving of large stumps and the not using the tops and branches. In the mills the thick saw saw blades turn a great deal of lumber to dust, and it is calculated that if this saw took their places the saving would be more than 2,000,000,000 board feet per annum.

Another feature of the government work is the treatment of the turpentine farms. The turpentine comes from the resinous gum which oozes out of the scarred pine tree into a hole, cut at the foot of the trunk, called a box. This cutting, year after year, soon kills the tree. Now, in place of the box, tin troughs are fastened below the scars and a clay jar catches the gum.

Uncle Sam's scientists say that there is an enormous amount of turpentine in the refuse of the sawmills of the south, and that this might be saved, yielding about 2,000,000 gallons a year, or a value of more than \$10,000,000.

The chief work of the forestry bureau, however, is taking care of the national forests; these are of enormous extent, and they are growing in value each year; they now cover 25,000,000 acres. In round numbers they are about equal to eight



LOGGING ON A NATIONAL FOREST IN ARIZONA



GOOD FORESTRY TELLS HOW SMALL TREES ARE SAVED BRUSH PILED UP TO LESSEN DANGER OF FIRE.

states as big as Kentucky or Virginia, and they have more than 500,000,000 board feet of merchantable timber. At this estimate they contain about one-tenth of the woods which covered the United States at the time it began to be settled, and going back to our homely comparison, contain enough lumber to make a board walk a foot wide from here to the sun.

The value of these government woodlands cannot be overestimated. Mr. Clifford Finchelton says they were worth more than \$2,000,000,000 and that the standing timber upon them is worth close to \$1,000,000,000. He said that the forests ought to eventually bring in an income of about \$100,000,000 a year by cutting only the ripe and dead down timber, and at the same time yield some additional revenue from the lands used for grazing.

These forests will grow in value and in the amount of wood which they contain, so that when our private forests are cut they will give us the lumber of the future. In addition, they control the sources of our rivers and are the basis of the water supply of those regions. It is also estimated that the waterfalls in the woods are equal to 10,000,000 horsepower. They will some time be harnessed on leases made by the government and will thereby add to the revenue.

The forest men tell me that the work of patrolling Uncle Sam's woods is being rapidly extended, and especially since the terrible fire of last year. So far about 5,000 miles of roads and 16,000 miles of trails have been cut. Fire lines are being built and a system of telephone lines has been put up, connecting the ranger headquarters with the lookout stations.

Each of the forests is divided up into districts about six miles square and every district is in charge of a ranger, who carries his post in May and stays until the rains begin in October. These rangers carry their own supplies, comprising a tent, rifle and plenty of ammunition and food. At present there are about 1,200 men who act as rangers, and there are forest guards numbering 500. There are also hunters and trappers, making altogether a corps of about 2,500 men in active charge of the national forests. In addition there are something like 600 scientists and clerks, who are employed here in Washington and at the district headquarters.

The number of men in charge of the forests should be increased. As it is now there is only one man for every 100,000 acres, whereas Prussia has a man for every 1,000 acres, and Baden one for every 700 acres.

Twenty-Five Millions in Smoke. The lack of men was evident in the fire of last year; they occurred at the end of the drought, beginning in June and reaching their climax in August. Congress had appropriated \$600,000 for protecting the woods, but this was not enough, and although the War department aided by sending troops, and the railroad companies, lumber companies and private individuals also co-operated, the fires spread over an area of more than 2,000,000 acres and killed something like 7,000,000,000 feet of merchantable lumber. The damages are said to have been over \$25,000,000 and the cost of fighting the fires a little more than \$1,000,000.

Altogether there were 400 different fires in the national forests last year, and most of them were extinguished by the forest rangers. The greatest fires occurred in northern Idaho, where within twenty-four hours after starting there were practically continuous flames for over 100 miles. In these fires seventy-six of the officials of the forestry service were killed and a large number injured.

Some of the fires came from lightning, others from camp-fires and some from locomotives of the trains which went through the woods.

Uncle Sam is now cutting considerable lumber in the national forests. The amount cut last year was more than 40,000,000 feet, board measure, much of it being sold on the stump at \$24 per thousand. Such receipts are rapidly approximating \$5,000,000 per annum, and they promise to be one of the income-bringing branches of the government. Nearly all the great nations of Europe are now making money out of their state forests. In France the lumber sold brings in \$5,000,000 a year, and in Austria the receipts are still greater. The forests of India are under government control and are yielding about \$3,000,000 per annum, while wide-awake little Japan is getting \$5,000,000 each year from the wood sold by the government.

But it is not alone in the lumber sold that the forestry bureau is saving us money. The fires of 1910 would have caused an incalculable loss had it not been for the rangers and the organized system of fire protection.

Indeed, it is estimated that the forestry service is worth to the government at least \$75,000,000 a year. Of this about one-third comes from the improvement of the woodlands, another third from the saving of young trees and prevention of fires, \$30,000,000 from the improved forest methods which are being spread to the timber lands outside national ownership, and also other items, which make up the total of \$75,000,000.

Something to Show. "Do you mean to tell me," demanded Mr. Sillicus angrily, "that you actually ordered \$10 worth of groceries of a total stranger, at prices less than any whole-

sale dealer can buy them, and paid for them in advance?"

"Yes, that's what I said," replied the better half.

"And you hadn't sense enough to see that it was a barefaced swindle!" roared Sillicus. "Well, your money's gone now, and you have nothing to show for it."

"Why, yes, I have, John," said his wife. "I have this man's receipt for it."—Lippincott's Magazine.

PRATTLE OF THE YOUNGSTERS.

Clergyman—Elmer, wouldn't you like to be a minister when you grow up?

Small Elmer—No, sir; I don't believe in working on Sunday.

Jan—Any amount of cold cream and the like will not take the pimples and that sallow look from your face. What you need is a good blood purifier and strengthening tonic to put a healthy color into your cheeks. Get an ounce of Sarsaparilla and a half pint alcohol of your druggist's; mix these with a half cup sugar, then add enough hot water to make a quart. Take a tablespoonful of this tonic before meals and you will soon regain your lost appetite, sleep

Tiny Elsie was visiting her grandparents in the country. Seeing a peacock on the fence with his gorgeous feathers spread, she ran into the house and exclaimed: "Oh, grandma, come out and see the old hen in full bloom!"

One day little Lola was crying bitterly in the library, when her father entered.

"Why, what's the trouble here?" he asked.

"Nothing's the trouble," sobbed the little miss. "I've just got a fussy, cry baby spell on me."

While out walking with her mother one day little Frances saw a dachshund for the first time. Like all dogs of his kind, he had a long body and very short legs.

"Four fellow!" exclaimed Frances. "I suppose he was born with long legs and wore them down from walking so much."



Discouraged

The expression occurs so many times in letters from sick women, "I was completely discouraged." And there is always good reason for the discouragement. Years of pain and suffering. Doctor after doctor tried in vain. Medicines doing no lasting good. It is no wonder that the woman feels discouraged.

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IT MAKES WEAK WOMEN STRONG AND SICK WOMEN WELL.

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Health and Beauty Advice

BY MRS. MAE MARTYN

Mrs. D. T.: No, you are not too old to regain your complexion. It is not even though your face is wrinkled and beset with enlarged pores and blackheads. You can clear up and improve your complexion best by using the following greasiness cream-jelly. Mix together two teaspoonfuls glycerine, one ounce almond and a half pint cold water. Stir and let stand a few hours before using. This cream-jelly is well suited for freshening up a dry, rough skin, and accomplishes wonders in eradicating wrinkles, blackheads and freckles. After using this almond jelly only a short time, you should find a big improvement in your complexion.

Rose: You must be a pitiful sight to look upon, with so much burdensome fat. Instead of denying yourself the food you crave and undergoing tortuous exercises, try this harmless remedy: Get four ounces of paraffin at any druggist's and dissolve it in a pint and a half of hot water. Take a tablespoonful before each meal, and your fat will disappear as if by magic. I receive many letters from those who have tried this simple, inexpensive remedy, telling me what a grand thing it is. It cuts down fat rapidly and leaves the skin smooth and free from wrinkles.

Mrs. E. B.: Ignorance is the only acceptable excuse for a head of poor hair. With but a little care you can have just as fine a head of thick, lustrous hair as your daughter. In the first place never wash your hair with soap, as the alkali in some soaps destroys the hair, making it brittle, short, streaky and lifeless. Try shampooing about twice a month with a teaspoonful of castor oil dissolved in a cup of hot water. The abundant lather cleanses perfectly, rises easily and dries quickly. You will soon notice your hair getting thicker, longer and taking on that beautiful healthy look so much desired, and you will no longer be bothered with dandruff.

Jan: Any amount of cold cream and the like will not take the pimples and that sallow look from your face. What you need is a good blood purifier and strengthening tonic to put a healthy color into your cheeks. Get an ounce of Sarsaparilla and a half pint alcohol of your druggist's; mix these with a half cup sugar, then add enough hot water to make a quart. Take a tablespoonful of this tonic before meals and you will soon regain your lost appetite, sleep

G. A.: Powder will not correct a sallow skin. If you wish to tone up your complexion and give it that much desired smooth, velvety look, use a lotion made with four ounces of glycerine dissolved in a half pint hot water with two teaspoonfuls glycerine added. You will find this lotion inexpensive and a sure remedy for freckles, tan and skin roughness. It takes away that sallow, shiny look and does not show on the face or rub off like powder. I find face powder very harmful to the complexion, as it clogs up the skin pores and causes the skin to wrinkle.

Fred: Unless the electric needle is fully used as an expert, of which there are comparatively few in the country, you cannot permanently rid the skin's surface of the downy growth. A simple, yet effective treatment consists of applying a delicate paste to the offending hairs, small and large. The paste is rubbed off and wash the skin. You can get powdered salicylic acid at the drug store, an ounce of which costs a dollar, but this cost is trifling, as a little of the salicylic acid and water to make a paste does the work quickly and well.

A. L. C.: Don't worry for modern science has given us a remedy for hair and scalp troubles that is simply wonderful in its remarkable effects. Get from your druggist a half pint alcohol and one ounce salicylic acid. Mix together in a bottle, then add a half pint cold water. Although a very strong irritant, this remedy, when rubbed into the scalp about twice a week eradicates dandruff, stops itching of the scalp, and checks your hair's growth. It keeps the scalp in a healthy condition and promotes a vigorous, natural growth of glossy hair. Read Mrs. Martyn's book, "Beauty," \$5.—Adv.

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