

OUR VANISHING FOREST

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Our vanishing forest by Arthur Newton Pack

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BY

ARTHUR NEWTON PACK

Associate Editor Nature Magazine

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TO MY WIFE
WHO SHARED WITH ME
THE LABOR AND THE PLEASURE
OF PREPARATION

2171

FOREWORD

*By Col. William B. Greeley,
Chief Forester of the United States.*

The forest is the background of America. We have built enormous industries upon its resources. We lead the nations of the earth in using its products. We turn to the woods instinctively for recreation. The forest is one of our great preservers. It feeds our lakes and streams. It shelters and renews our wild life. It has given moral stamina, self-taught resourcefulness, and bodily vigor to every generation of Americans.

It is time we balanced accounts with our forest. It is time we became growers as well as users of wood. It is time we acquired something of the forestry sense of the provident folk of the old world—the instinct to protect the woods, to plant a tree where no more valuable plant will grow. It is time we paid heed to our idle acres—that we restored woods, industries, and people on the large part of our soil which lacks them all.

To reach this goal much must be done by way of public effort. We need more public forests—na-

tional, state, municipal. We need a joining of hands on all sides to stamp out the forest fire. We need public control of the use of forest lands—fairly and reasonably exercised. But first of all we need forest-wise Americans. When forestry becomes a matter of common interest and everyday speech, when the idea sinks in that our forests are going the way of our buffalo unless everyone lends a hand, the game will be won.

W. B. GREELEY.

United States Department of Agriculture,
Forest Service,
Washington, D. C.
June, 1922.

PREFACE

What does the average citizen of the United States know about trees? He knows that they are beautiful, and he dimly recognizes that they are important to his welfare. Beyond this his reflections seldom go. According to a current story an orator once closed his stirring address with this peroration: "Is there a man in this audience who has ever done anything to prevent the destruction of our forests?" Up piped a small and timid voice from a rear seat, "If you please, Sir, I've shot woodpeckers." This is not perhaps a fair measure of the extent of public knowledge, but it does suggest that the public is withholding its attention from our great and vital forest problem.

"Our Vanishing Forests" is not written for foresters or for those who already possess a thorough knowledge of the economic importance of our forests. It is designed for Mr. and Mrs. Average Citizen, the man and woman in the home and in every walk of life, for it is upon them above all others that the solution of this great national problem depends. For the information briefly summarized in the chapters that follow the author is deeply