

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF
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CONSERVATIVE LUMBERING AT
SEWANEE, TENNESSEE**

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JOHN FOLEY

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BUREAU OF FORESTRY—BULLETIN No. 39.
GIFFORD PINCHOT, Forester.

CONSERVATIVE LUMBERING

AT

SEWANEE, TENNESSEE,

BY

JOHN FOLEY,
FIELD ASSISTANT, BUREAU OF FORESTRY.



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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF FORESTRY,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1908.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report entitled "Conservative lumbering at Sewanee, Tennessee," prepared by John Foley, field assistant in the Bureau of Forestry, and to recommend its publication as Bulletin No. 39 of this Bureau. The illustrations (of which there are twelve full-page plates) are believed to be necessary to a perfect understanding of the text by the reader.

Very respectfully,

GIFFORD PINCHOT, *Forester.*

HON. JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.



CONTENTS.

	Page.
Introduction	7
The University Domain	8
General description	8
The plateau	8
The coves	9
Reasons for the distribution of the trees	10
Influence of soil	10
Influence of soil moisture	10
Influence of shade	11
Other conditions that affect distribution	11
The forest divided into types	12
Plateau types	12
Chestnut Ridge	12
Hickory Slope	13
Oak Flat	13
Bottom	13
Cove types	14
Lower Slope	14
Northerly Slope	14
Southerly Slope	15
A study of the species	15
Sources of harm to the forest	23
Fire	23
Fire is worst on the plateau	23
Causes of fire	24
Effects of fire on the trees	24
Fire burns away the forest floor	25
Evils of overgrazing	25
Ravages of insects	26
Damage done by wind	27
Abuse of cutting privileges	27
Past treatment of the forest	28
Lumbering	28
"Drumming" timber in the coves	28
Roads at Sewanee	29
The log market is excellent	29
Management of the Sewanee forest	30
Treatment of the coves	31
Treatment of the plateau	32
Poor trees should be cut for firewood	32
Inferior species should be cut first	32
Protection of the forest	33
The plan in operation	33
Trees native to The University Domain	35

ILLUSTRATIONS.

	Page.
PLATE I. The University Domain.....	Frontispiece
II. Fig. 1.—A rocky escarpment separates plateau from cove. Fig. 2.— View of a cove.....	8
III. Plateau types. Fig. 1.—Hickory Slope. Fig. 2.—Bottom.....	16
IV. Cove types. Fig. 1.—The best growth is on Northerly Slope. Fig. 2.—Southerly Slope is dry and its timber is poor.....	16
V. Damage done by fire. Fig. 1.—Land burned over every year. Fig. 2.—Black Gum still alive, though burned to a shell.....	16
VI. Effects of fire. Fig. 1.—Leafless saplings in foreground killed by fire. Fig. 2.—Yellow Oak, hollowed by fire and fungi, finally broken by wind.....	16
VII. Bad effects of grazing. Fig. 1.—Seedlings stripped of their leaves by cows. Fig. 2.—Land grazed every year.....	24
VIII. "Drumming." Fig. 1.—Drawing the log from the cove to the plateau. Fig. 2.—The log finally ascends the plateau by the help of a chute.....	24
IX. Fig. 1.—Bowlders make logging difficult. Fig. 2.—Good trees grow on the upper slopes.....	24
X. Fig. 1.—The large tree should be removed for the good of the forest. Fig. 2.—These White Oaks are limby because they grew too much in the open.....	24
XI. The Sewanee mill. Fig. 1.—Logs from the Sewanee forest. Fig. 2.—Lumber ready for shipment.....	32
XII. Logging at Sewanee. Fig. 1.—Hauling logs in Block 1. Fig. 2.— Young growth left after lumbering.....	32

CONSERVATIVE LUMBERING AT SEWANEE, TENNESSEE.

INTRODUCTION.

The Bureau of Forestry in 1900 undertook the management of the forest at Sewanee, Tenn., owned by The University of the South. The forest had been misused for many years and was steadily declining in value, but the financial condition of the University prevented any expenditure on its improvement and demanded that it be made to yield immediate returns. In spite of these disadvantages a plan of management was devised and applied which has been profitable and has left the forest in good condition after lumbering.

Two types of forest grow at Sewanee—one confined to the plateau, the other to the coves. Although \$3,000 for all of the timber was considered a fair offer by the University in 1899, yet under the plan of management of the Bureau of Forestry the University made in 1900-1901 a net profit out of its cove timber alone of about \$1,500, and the following year of about \$1,200. The forest on the plateau had been burned and grazed so long that its improvement in quality and composition was the urgent problem. A plan of treatment was made whereby the labor expended on the improvement of the plateau forest would be paid for by the returns it would yield. Although the work of improvement done on the plateau was required to be self-supporting only, it yielded a net profit of about \$500.

Four more years of lumbering remain to be done, and for three years at least there is an assured annual profit of \$1,500, or half of what the University was formerly willing to accept for all of the timber. In a word, timber formerly valued at \$3,000 will have been made to yield a profit of about \$7,000.

The high profits were made possible through the careful planning of the lumbering in order to prevent waste and to secure the largest returns from the merchantable trees. In the cutting, provision was made that the land should again produce valuable timber.

In the following pages the forest is described, recommendations for management are given, and the results attained are stated. The recommendations are general, since the treatment of the forest has necessarily been such that rules to cover each particular case would have wrought confusion. The plan submitted states the objects to be gained by