

NATIONAL AND LOCAL WEALTH IN FORESTS

A large, highly organized and widely distributed group of industries have been built up to manufacture our annual wood needs. Furthermore, the distribution of these requirements makes heavy demands on our transportation facilities and on the regional and local distribution agencies which reach down to the community and individual.

Today the lumber and allied industries contribute nearly four billion dollars to our national income and more than a billion dollars to the wage earners of the country. The capital invested in plants and equipment reaches the total of three and a half billion dollars. The investment in standing timber exceeds ten billion dollars at present prices.

The manufacture and distribution of logging and wood-working machinery is no small item and the housing, feeding and clothing of the employees of the industry demands local commercial enterprise of large proportions.

Nearly a million wage earners are employed in our wood-using industries. In addition, a large but unknown number are engaged in shipping and distribution of wood and its placement in final position.

The distribution of our forest wealth reaches out to every state and to every community. Those communities which are in or near forests naturally have a larger share of this vast wealth, while those separated by long distances are less directly concerned. Yet even the non-forest communities must have a plentiful supply of wood to meet essential needs, which means a significant investment of capital and employment of labor in local manufacture and distribution of wood and its products.

TO THE STATE

In the timbered regions, however, the wood using industries play an outstanding rôle in the general industrial and commercial development. In the state of Washington, for instance, the primary investment in the lumber industry amounts to \$159,411,073 out of a total of \$574,235,183 invested in all industrial enterprises. The number of employees, placed at 53,393 by the Bureau of the Census, nearly equals the number engaged in agriculture, and is ten times the number employed in mines.

In Oregon, the lumber industry is relatively even more im-