

ture and in use by the consumer. Twenty-two and one-half billion cubic feet is the amount of standing timber which must be cut from the forest to supply our needs. By closer utilization the same quantity of usable forest material can be obtained from a smaller quantity of standing timber. It is estimated that the elimination of all preventable waste by the industry and the public would reduce our annual drain upon the forest by 7 billion cubic feet. The use of lower grade logs which the lumberman is now obliged to leave in the woods, and of species of trees mistakenly considered inferior, will contribute enormously to our annual supply of forest products.

The public have a large responsibility in careful utilization. To cite one example, if builders, architects, contractors would order a proportion of their lumber requirements in short lengths, instead of in long lengths which are later cut into short lengths on the job, it would effect large savings.

The importance of closer utilization lies in the fact that it can be put into practice in a relatively short time. Already much has been done along these lines. Economic pressure, brought about largely through the greatly augmented values of standing timber, has already forced changes in utilization practice both in the woods and in the mills, especially in the older timber regions.

The only permanent solution of our wood requirements and the land utilization problem, however, lies in forest growth. Much can be accomplished by supplemental measures, but the fundamental solution of the problem lies in commercial forestry.

THE COMMUNITY AND FORESTRY

Forests are essential to the community not only because they furnish essential wood products but also because they are a source of wealth production.

In Figure 7 the present forest areas of each state are shown. It is significant that in 11 states over half of the land area is more suited for forest growth than for any other purpose; and in 28 states, 30 per cent or more of the land area is forest land. Of these 28 states, 12 are north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers and east of the Great Plains, 13 are in the Southeast and three are in the West.

Within a fifty mile radius of Pittsburgh, 32 per cent of the land is forest land. Around Chattanooga, 63 per cent; Albany, 48 per cent; and about Springfield, Massachusetts, 55 per cent.