

OUTSTANDING INSTANCES OF THE PRACTICE OF COMMERCIAL FORESTRY

Despite the difficulties which beset the practice of forestry today, there are many instances where a surprising start has been made, not only in publicly owned forests, but on privately owned lands. On an area basis, the practice of forestry leads on publicly owned lands. The national forests are being handled, generally, upon a sustained yield basis which calls for a balancing of cutting against growth for a steady, permanent yield.

In the states the situation is somewhat different. Most states have found it necessary to purchase land for state forests. These purchases have been confined, and rightly so, to cut-over lands where reforestation by planting is the only possible method of obtaining a second crop within a reasonable time. Large purchases of such land have been made by the states of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and others. Reforestation on these lands is progressing as rapidly as funds permit. The reforestation of the state forests in Michigan is particularly noteworthy.

The aroused interest in forest management of privately owned lands is due largely to greater appreciation of the value of second-growth timber. For years, second-growth timber, for the most part accidental, i. e., it grew despite fires and lack of care, has been a real influence in the lumber markets of the East. North Carolina Pine (a term applied to several species of pine), over 90 per cent second-growth, has supplied a relatively large share of the lumber needs of the Atlantic seaboard. Second-growth white pine in New England has found a special use for shipping containers, in which it has met no competition until recently. Second-growth hardwoods in the Central States have entered the hardwood markets and hardwood-using industries in a commanding way.

Furthermore, virgin forest owners have come to realize that it is not easy to sell their cut-over lands for agricultural purposes. For the time being general extension of the area of improved farm land has stopped and an actual decrease of 26 million acres was reported in the last ten years. The idea of reforesting these lands is growing, especially since it has been found that often relatively inexpensive changes in logging practice will accomplish forest regeneration.

Many private owners are observing the gradual shifting of