

U. S. FORESTS SAFE FROM MAW OF NEWS PRESSES

Less Than One Per Cent of Wood Cut Used as Newsprint, Expert Tells Paper Convention—Group Urges Scientific Reforestation and Equitable Taxation

NEWSPAPERS utilize less than one per cent of the wood cut from America's forest land, according to a report made this week by Douglas A. Crocker, forester of the woodlands section, before the 50th annual convention of the American Paper and Pulp Association at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York. Mr. Crocker declared that with skillful management there is ample timber for all future needs. The forester recently concluded a study for the association which covered the problem of determining the future supply of wood for paper, pulpwood and other uses.

"The United States still has more than 470,000,000 acres of forest lands," he said. "More than one third of our wood is used for fuel; another third goes into lumber; the balance becomes mine timbers, poles, ties, cooperage, etc., with less than four per cent of the total cut converted into pulpwood and pulp products.

"Newsprint absorbs a quarter of this, and the impression that our forests are being fed into the hungry maw of the news presses and magazine printing houses is quite erroneous."

An increasingly large number of the big lumber and pulp and paper companies are pursuing a far-sighted policy looking toward the reforestation of their land, Mr. Crocker's report showed. Forest fires and injudicious cutting by private owners, however, are making serious inroads into the wood supply, he said.

This latter problem was given considerable attention at the convention in New York, which was attended by nearly 1,000 paper men from this country.

Despite the optimistic tone of Mr. Crocker's report, the association has no intention of slackening its efforts to impress upon the public the need for conservation and reforestation.

"During our golden anniversary," Dr. Hugh P. Baker, association secretary said, "our association aims to enlist the interest and aid of the public in a program for the preservation and reforestation of the country's great wooded areas upon which the future supply of wood pulp and newsprint depends. Scientific forestry alone will insure a permanent supply of raw material. Under skillful management an acre can be brought to yield six times as much wood as by the slow process of nature unaided.

"We will also attempt to bring home to the public the vital part in the nation's progress which the wood pulp process of paper making has played. Americans are the greatest paper users in the world. A century ago an American's paper ration was about a pound per capita a year. Today we use 170 pounds per capita. At the present rate of increase, we will soon be using as much fine paper and newsprint as all the rest of the world combined. Our total is more than twice as much as the Englishman uses, four times more than the German, 12 times as much as the Chinese and 16 times the per capita consumption of the Russians.

"Wood and paper mean much more in the life of the city dweller than he suspects. Although he will agree readily to the proposition that this an age of steel, electricity, and steam or air, most of it hot, the truth is that wood plays as vital a part in his existence as any of these. For practically all paper and pulp products come from wood. What with newspapers, paper towels, wrapping paper, magazines, books, boxes, bags, cups, tissue, shelf and writing papers, etc., not to mention his weekly pay check, the office-worker leads a rather wooden life after all. The New Yorker who takes a morning and evening paper, several weekly journals, a few magazines and perhaps two Sunday papers, will use in excess of a ton of paper a year. If their year's supply of paper were delivered in bulk tomorrow morning to a family of five persons, it would fill their apartment to the roof.

"Most of this mountain of paper finds some further use after the original consumer throws it away. Much of it is salvaged and reconverted into cardboard for boxes, etc., more than three and a third million tons of pulp was imported by the paper manufacturers, principally from Canada. The balance of our 14,000,000 tons was produced here at home and one of the chief interests of the American Paper and Pulp Association is to promote national reforestation, fire prevention and scientific cutting of timber, so that the United States will have an adequate supply of home grown timber to meet future needs."

Senator Charles L. McNary was the chief speaker at the association's annual banquet held Feb. 24. His address was on "Reforestation and the Paper and Pulp Industry." He declared there was slight hope for any radical change in the form of raw material. Paper production today, he said, is more completely a wood pulp product than it was a decade ago.

"Despite the amount of work which has been put into the development of new and improved methods of pulping and paper making since the wood-pulp process came into general use, it was not until recently that advances were made which give promise of revolutionizing the industry, or at least important parts of it," he said. "I refer to the adaptation of the neutral sulphide process which has been worked out at the Forest Products Laboratory, and the Mason process by which wood is exploded into a fibrous condition. These two developments are among the chief advances made during this century.

"Less spectacular perhaps, but of great importance, has been the application by the paper industry of research to manufacturing problems, particularly to the elimination of waste. The results of the studies of pulping rotten wood, the development of use of kinds of wood previously considered unfit for pulping, and the tightening of processes in the actual line of mill operation are all important. There is hardly any stage in manufacture of either pulp or paper which has not received at least some scientific attention. It is my opinion that the present work in research, great as it may seem at the present time, is but a start.

"The paper industry is based upon one raw material that can be replaced. Among

our industries few are as fortunate in this respect as yours. Coal, petroleum, metal can be exhausted. All irreplaceable resources can be used up in the course of time. The resources that can be replaced currently then, are of supreme importance in our whole economic life and they are bound to grow in importance as utilization eats up the easily available supplies of those resources which are limited in quantity.

"One of the immediate steps in the solution of our forests problems is to employ the proper and most economical use of our forests. Practically all of the research work which your industry is carrying on has a more or less direct bearing upon this. It is the line of effort that is easiest to take and the one that will yield the most immediate results. Discoveries in this field affect costs directly.

"The time is ripe for the paper industry to begin in a big way to work out economical solutions of your woods problems. Many think that there will be developments in the manufacture of paper which will make other raw materials more economical than wood. There are possibilities. The utilization of waste materials from other industries for paper making is a very good possibility, and is being employed in a few instances. But the fact remains that our paper production of today is more completely a wood pulp product than it was a decade ago. It would seem that if other materials were suitable, the high prices for pulpwood during and immediately following the war would have resulted in some substitution at least. But there was practically no change in the rate of wood consumption in our paper manufacture. In view of those considerations, and many others the difficulties of using other materials, their cost as compared with wood, and the resulting differences in the type of paper made, affords slight hope for any radical change in the form of the raw material.

"Unquestionably inequitable taxation of our forest lands ranks with the forest fire danger as one of the two great obstacles to the production of timber," he continued. "A tax paid annually on growing forests, which yield no income for 30 or 40 years, is equivalent to taxing farm land with its growing crops thirty or forty times between seeding and harvest," he said. "Such a tax not only

consumes a large part of the possible returns, but compels the grower of timber to pay long before he realizes on his product. Unless extremely moderate, the yearly taxation of growing forests may debar the investment of funds in such enterprises.

"Not until the States of the Union shall have enacted an equitable system of taxation will the people of our country enjoy the economic benefits that will flow from the rebuilding of our forest resources.

"Growing timber might better be exempted from property taxation, that the land itself on which immature forests stand shall only be taxed, and the income obtained or the profits realized in timber production be subject to the general income tax levies of the State.

"In producing the largest quantity of wood at the lowest price, there is probably no one thing of greater importance at the present time than the detection, prevention and control of forest fires. In this work the Federal Government and the States have a real interest and responsibility. The Clarke-McNary Law was devised to assist in providing for forest protection as a great co-operative job to be undertaken and put through by the private owners, the States and the Federal Government working in close harmony. This law provides for the determination and recommendation of adequate forest fire protective measures. It enables the Federal government to share the cost of the forest fire protection work engaged in by the States and private owners. One million dollars has been appropriated by Congress for the conduct of this work during the period of July 1, 1927 to June 30, 1928, which represents an increase of \$290,000 over the amount provided for the previous fiscal year. Today the Forest Service is co-operating with a total of 33 States in forest fire protection, the total money—Federal, State and private budgeted by the States for this work being approximately three and a quarter million dollars. Considering that some private money is spent in fire protection in addition to this sum, we can be encouraged by the fact that a substantial start in forest fire control has been made. When we realize, however, that it will take more than ten million dollars to meet the situation adequately, we can see that there is a large undertaking ahead.

"There are other features of the Clarke-McNary law which are of real interest to the paper industry, the provision for co-operating with the States in the production and distribution of forest planting stock to farmers and the provision for assisting the owners of farms in the establishing, renewing and improving their woodlands. There may be more significance to the paper industry in these activities than might be generally believed. May there not come a time mills to grow pulpwood, just as they now contract with canners to grow peas or tomatoes?

"This program of forest research is one of the ways of attacking the problem of adequate timber supplies, which is of vital importance to us all. Co-operation under existing law is another. The solution is one in which it behooves us all to pull together for the common good. I hope the time is not far distant when through your support and the support of other public spirited agencies adequate provision will be made for forest research, forest fire protection, and timber growing on a scale commensurate with the needs of the Nation."

SIGNS FILM CONTRACT

Elinor Patterson, daughter of Capt. Joseph Medill Patterson, editor and publisher of the *New York Daily News*, has signed a long time contract with Carl Laemmle, president of the Universal Picture Corporation.

TEXANS SNIFF AT SID SMITH'S "CHILI DIPPER"



When Sidney Smith, creator of the Gumps visited Fort Worth recently on his way to Los Angeles by automobile, he was wearing a derby as shown in the above photo. When he left, however, he was wearing a typical white Texas hat. "Better not go through the West with a Chili dipper like that on," a Fort Worth friend told him and presented him with one typical of Texas. Smith, his wife, a bride of five months, his manager J. B. Walsh and Mrs. Walsh were on their way to Los Angeles by auto. The photo shows (left to right): J. M. North, Jr., editor of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram and Record Telegram*; Sidney Smith, Mrs. Smith and Amon G. Carter, publisher of two newspapers.