



The Nation's New "First Lady"

Here are three poses of Mrs. Herbert Hoover, who will grace the White House during the Administration of Mr. Hoover. Intimates of Mrs. Hoover say she will be ideally fitted for her most exacting duties as the mistress of the White House. She has poise, graciousness, simplicity and straightforwardness, and is a woman of great culture and highly developed artistic tastes.

GIVES INFORMATION ON ILLINOIS TREES

INTERESTING LECTURE

Chief Forester of State Tells of Various Types and Relationships; Methods of Propagation

Through co-operation of the State Farmers' Institute, Mr. R. B. Miller, Chief Forester of the Illinois Conservation Department, gave a talk on trees before the Farmers' Institute at Tiskilwa, Ill., recently. The speaker said that since forests were composed of trees or groups of trees growing together according to natural relationships, that this gave him an opportunity to say something about forests and forestry in this state and other states. The lecture dealt, however, in the main with interesting facts about the occurrence and life history of Illinois trees, and was illustrated with colored lantern slides.

Interest in trees seems to be very general and from many different angles, such as the commercial, scientific and aesthetic. As a rule, the speaker said that the best citizens were interested in trees, and in their planting and care around their homes or on the farm. Usually farmers are better acquainted with trees than other people because of closer association with them or with their products in the form of lumber.

Illinois Trees

As to Illinois trees, a bulletin soon to be issued at Urbana would describe over 124 species and varieties and the tree book issued by the Conservation Department described about 98 different trees. Probably it is safe to say that out of a very large number of trees in America, as compared with European countries, less than 100 are of commercial importance.

The map of Illinois as to life zones shows that it lies in the upper Austral, lower Austral and transition zones and a check-up of the number of species occurring in the state shows that it ranks very well in numbers with other states, since northern species have crept in from Wisconsin and southern species have extended northward. Many of the counties have individual tree reports and for Richland county, Illinois, which contains a part of the bottoms of the Wabash and Little Wabash, there are 71 native species planted at "Bird Haven," near Olney, Illinois. The state having a length of over 400 miles, our trees range from the white pine, Jack pine and tamarack of the north to the cypress, the magnolias, and the short-leaf pine in southern Illinois.

State Conservation

Since some species of trees disappear through clearing of land for farming, lumbering, grazing and fires, in order to perpetuate some kinds of timber, the state or government may step in and buy these remnants, as in the case of the Big Tree groves of California. The cypress is a tree of southern Illinois swamps, the last groups of which are being gradually cut. In order that people may be able to see a real cypress swamp, the Conservation Department has purchased as a wild life refuge 3,100 acres of swamp, water and islands, now known as Horseshoe Lake Fish and Game Refuge in Alexander county, Illinois, 18 miles north of Cairo. The White Pine Grove, in Ogle county, has been purchased by the Department of Public Works and Buildings which will likewise preserve an unusual tree type. The shortleaf pine in Union county, Illinois, is a tree of botanical interest worth preserving, at least from forest fires, occurring in patches totaling 200 acres, the same pine as found in Missouri and the southern states.

Commercial Uses

The various commercial uses of wood were illustrated, such as for veneers, railroad ties, charcoal, and furniture. The durability of different species for fence posts was discussed, those leading being such wood as osage (hedge), black locust, the mulberry and sassafras. As in the case of railroad ties, trees not naturally durable for fence posts can be peeled and creosoted by the open tank process, and can be made to equal those ranked as durable spe-

cies, such as white oak. The farm woodlot can be made more valuable by good management and advice can be secured free from the extension forester at Urbana.

In conclusion, some of the beauty spots of Illinois were shown and the speaker said that very few of these would have any attraction without trees. Trees have had an important part to play in the varied topography of the country, preventing erosion of the soil and with their leaves and needles on the ground increasing the capacity of the soil to hold water. Pathe recently released a very interesting film depicting trees as the friend of man, doing their work silently, and such films are bound to stimulate interest in trees from the use of beauty and utility.

BIG FARMING SAVING WITH MODERN TOOLS

Hoeing Acre of Corn Takes 300 Hours While Machine Does It in Four Hours

Citing the big saving in farming with modern tools over old-fashioned methods, Farm & Fireside declares that whereas it required 300 hours of labor to cultivate one acre of corn with a hoe, the same cultivation can now be given the crop in four hours by the use of machinery.

Wheeler McMillen, writing under the subject of "Iron Hands, Will They Pour Money Into Your Pocket or Push You Off Your Land?" calls attention to the fact that within the last eight years, 4,000,000, persons have quit farming and that 76,000 farms have ceased to exist; that 19,000,000 acres have gone out of cultivation and yet production has increased 25 per cent. All this, he declares, is due to improved machinery.

The tractor farmer, says the article can plow four to eight times as many acres a day as the man with a two horse team. He can raise a bushel of wheat with ten minutes work. Once it required three hours. He can cultivate six times as much corn and pick five times as much as by the old methods.

Once the average farm worker could handle only twelve acres. Now he handles fifty acres and no longer is it unusual for one man to take care of 100 acres of corn and 300 acres of wheat. The output of the average farm worker is 47 per cent greater than at the beginning of the century.

The article declares that every effort is being made to reach a point of equalization between the increased production and the decreasing necessity for man power.

IF ROBINSON CRUSOE HAD RADIO, NO STORY

Modern Communication Facilities Would Have Averted Stay on Island

That Robinson Crusoe could never have had his thrilling adventure if radio had existed, was brought out forcibly in the early days of radio, declares Frederick L. Collins, writing in Woman's Home Companion. In connection, he related an anecdote of the late William J. Bryan, who but a few years ago was aboard a ship in the region of Juan Fernandez, near the island supposedly inhabited by Crusoe.

"A few years ago," says the writer, "the steamer Joachim was in that region and grounded on a coral reef. William Jennings Bryan was on board and to quiet the passengers, he made a humorous speech, suggesting that they set up a Crusoe republic on the desert island and offering himself as a candidate for President.

"But there was no time to carry out the suggestion, as the first QOD from the wireless room of the steamer brought an answer from New York that the home office had already sent out a hurry call and that several ships were speeding to the rescue."

The writer points out that radios on ships in those comparatively recent days were novelties which have now come into the most practical uses. He cited several instances of lost persons being located by radio, in addition to numerous rescues of ships.

"If, in the Spanish-American war, Sampson's flagship had been equipped with wireless apparatus, he would have been able to direct the battle of Santiago in person and there would never have been such a thing as the Sampson-Schley controversy," concludes Mr. Collins.

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To the Ladies

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