

GROWING OF FORESTS IS ECONOMIC ASSET

VALUE TO LAND OWNERS

U. S. Forest Inspector Tells How Timber Crop May Prove Way to Utilize Land Not Used Otherwise

Growing of forests in southern Illinois as an "economic asset" to landowners whose lands are not suitable for agriculture, has been pointed out by Murray Bruner, district forest inspector of the U. S. Forest Service.

His suggestion was made in a report to R. B. Miller, Chief State Forester of the Department of Conservation, following a trip made by Mr. Miller and Mr. Bruner through the forest lands of southern Illinois.

Mr. Bruner called attention to the large amount of mining timber used in that section, and suggested that land unfit for agriculture might well be used to grow this timber.

Mine Co. Grows Trees

He also declared he was "favorably impressed" with their visit to the forest holding of the Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin Coal company near West Frankfort, the owners of which co-operate with Gus H. Radebaugh, director of the State Department of Conservation, in the protection of their timberland from fire.

"Efforts of the owners of this property to protect it from fire," he said, "are worthy of commendation and the results can be readily seen by any visitor."

Other impressions of Mr. Bruner of the trip follow:

"That the growing of large quantities of mining timber in the immediate vicinity of the mines is an economic necessity was strikingly brought out in our visit to one of the large mines where we saw great quantities of mine ties and props which had been shipped in from another State, and as we learned, the freight bill on these materials was a very considerable item. In this very section it was plain to see that a goodly proportion of the land was not suitable for agriculture, and that in fact no inconsiderable amount of land is lying idle. The practice of forestry in southern Illinois is therefore an economic necessity to the mining industry and to all landowners who possess land which is not capable of returning greater profits from agricultural uses than from the production of forest crops.

Chestnut Oak

"It was interesting indeed to find chestnut oak (*Quercus montana* Wild) growing on Atwood Ridge in Union county, and shorleaf pine (*Pinus echinata* Mill) on a ridge known as the "Pine Hills," also in Union county. I daresay, knowledge of the fact that these two species of trees occur at all in Illinois would be interesting news to thousands of people in the State.

"The trip to Bald Knob, next to the highest point in the State, and to Atwood Ridge, were particularly interesting because of the splendid views these high points afforded, but of far greater interest to a forester on account of the presence of the relatively large areas of forest growth in the surrounding country. I was constantly reminded on the trip to these two interesting forest areas of the splendid opportunity each seemed to offer for the establishment of a State Forest.

Horseshoe Lake Reserve

"The trip to Horseshoe Lake Game Reserve in Alexander county held great interest for me. Here it is evident that the State has an unusual opportunity to promote game and fish propagation, a demonstration in good forestry practice, and public recreation, all at the same time, through a co-ordinated plan for the development and use of this unique water, forest and agricultural land holding.

"Our visit into the swamp forests and moist bottom woodlands along the Kaskaskia River in Washington and St. Clair counties made a fitting climax to our most interesting trip. It was truly a revelation to find in these river bottoms such fine examples of original forest growth. It was particularly impressed with the splendid proportions attained by the big shell-bark or king hickory (*Hicoria laevis* Michx) and the native pecan (*Hicoria pecan* (Marsh) Britton). The large size and excellent form attained by other species such as the oaks, elm, ash and hackberry was also noteworthy.

Forest Fire Menace

"Perhaps most people would be surprised to hear that even these river bottom lands are menaced at times by forest fire. Mr. Schoener, the game and forest warden, assured us that fires are actually a great danger to these forests, which at certain times become very dry. In view of the fact that thousands of people visit portions of these forests every year for the purpose of hunting and fishing, but gathering, and for the sheer pleasure of camping out in the wilds of the forest, it is clear that the game and forest warden has a manifold job in rendering the protection which will assure the perpetuation of the highly valuable forest growth on the river bottom lands."

The people who forget to vote, always seem able to remember when it is time to eat their meals.

ILLINOIS HAS MOST MILES OF HARD ROAD

COMPLETED IN ILLINOIS

During Six and a Half Years Nearly Seven Thousand Miles Constructed in Illinois

During the seven years and six months period between January 1, 1921, and July 1, 1928, hard road construction in Illinois has progressed under the direction of Governor Len Small at the rate of 2.11 miles a day, summer and winter, week days, holidays and Sundays.

According to official figures just released by the Division of highways, Department of Public Works and Buildings, there were constructed during this period 5,793.11 miles of state aid and bond issue roads, as a part of the state highway system.

6,987.25 Miles Completed

The report of the Division of highways shows that when Governor Small took office there was a total of 1,194.14 miles of state aid and bond issue highways in the state. On July 1, 1928, after seven and one-half years, during which Governor Small had directed the road building of the state, there were 6,987.25 miles of state aid and bond issue roads in the state a mileage more than double that of any other state in the union. This mileage includes 218.62 miles widened or replaced.

During the same period there have been completed 1,538.74 miles of paving and 1,320 bridges have been constructed as a part of the state highway system.

Report of the Division of highways shows that on July 1, 1928, there were under contract 806.46 miles of state aid and bond issue highways, 196.87 miles of grading and 186 bridges. During the two months elapsing since the tabulations were made a large number of other contracts have been awarded, and it is expected the season of 1928 will set a new record in road building in Illinois.

Builds 83 Per Cent of Roads

With 5,793.11 miles of hard roads built in the state of Illinois during seven and one-half years by Governor Small, the administration is due

the credit of constructing approximately 83 per cent of the state highway system up to July 1, 1928. Construction work for the remainder of the present season will still further increase this percentage, setting a record which it will be impossible for any executive to ever equal.

The official figures of the Division of Highways are made public with the issuance of a new map for free distribution showing the status of the state highway system as of July 1, 1928.

This map is the largest which has been issued by the state of Illinois, showing the highway system. It measures 25x41 inches, shows all completed highways, together with those under contract or proposed as a part of the state system. The various routes are designated by the state number, and where a part of the national system carry also the federal designation, showing connections with the routes of the adjoining states.

Index of Towns

On the reverse side of the map is an index to all of the cities and towns of the state located on the hard roads, together with a schedule by which distances can be figured. Special mention is also made of the state parks with data which will assist the tourist

in reaching the same most conveniently.

While the daily average for hard road building in Illinois has been 2.11 miles a day, summer and winter, during fair weather or foul, week day, holiday and Sundays, for the entire seven and one-half years covered in the survey, the highest yearly record was made in 1924, when approximately 1,230 miles of state highway were built. This is a world record.

The world records of 63 miles of pavement in one week, and 2,669 feet of 18-foot pavement in one day from one mixer have also been established.

Ice Trade Hasn't Melted!

The Eastern Ice association in convention here, were told that despite competition from mechanical refrigerators, manufacturers report a gain in ice sales and new customers during the past year.

Wet Dinner Pails

The river was peppered with commuters' dinner pails recently, the tin having been given that Prohibition officers were peeking into the back-

Fighting Lions

Two enraged lions fought a fight to the death at the new zoological park here. Leo, a ferocious beast, who had assumed the attitude of king, was being driven to his cage in an outdoor den, when Melenik, a smaller lion, who seemed to resent Leo's snarling manner, thrust his paw under the sliding door.

In a flash Leo seized the paw, the door slid up and the two met in a fight. It ended only when Melenik fell dead, his throat torn by the other's fangs. Attendants fired blank cartridges, poked with huge iron bars and finally turned on the fire hose, but were unable to stop the struggle.

Broth in Law of Ex Kaiser Plans Circus Career

Alexander Zoubkoff, twenty-seven-year old Russian emigre who married Princess Victoria Zu Schaumburg-Lippe, sixty-two year old sister of the former German Kaiser, last November, is planning to become a circus ringmaster.

"G-good gracious!" exclaimed Mr. Meke, jumping to his feet. "That reminds me! I-I almost forgot to mail a letter for my wife!"

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MANY people hesitate about giving useful gifts, although everybody likes to receive them. Our new plan called Certified Giving makes it easier and more "Christmassy" to give useful gifts. When you purchase a home appliance at the Public Service Store, you receive with it a Beautiful Christmas Certificate.

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