

FORESTRY SCHOOL AT BILTMORE TO HOLD UNIQUE CELEBRATION.

Thousands of lumbermen in this country have seen Dr. C. A. Schenck of Biltmore, N.C., and know what a breezy, hearty enthusiastic individual he is. Those who have even a passing acquaintance with him know also that he is a man of more than ordinary ability. His enthusiasms are based on sound training. That he is practical is shown by the fact that he has actually put that worn-out old woodland of George W. Vanderbilt's down near Asheville, N.C., on a paying footing, or at least where it pays expenses, and that is no mean accomplishment.

He got his training in the thorough German way over in the old country. When Gifford Pinchot resigned his job as superintendent of the Vanderbilt forests to accept the office of chief forester for the United States government, Mr. Vanderbilt sent out tracers all over the world for the best available man to take his place. The tracers turned up Charles A. Schenck, Ph. B., who was then a lieutenant in the Germany army, but directly connected with forestry work.

He came over imbued with all the ideas and theories which appertained to German forestry, and which had been worked out with magnificent success, but knowing comparatively little about the forestal conditions and the financial restrictions which make the question in America so different from what it is in the old country.

But this then young man was a practical man. He saw these differences, and entered into a study of the American situation and particularly, of course, of the Vanderbilt proposition, which is not at all the sort of a forest proposition which the forester looking for profit would like to tackle.

The 180,000 acres owned by Mr. Vanderbilt—in two chief forests, Biltmore and Mount Pisgah—are in an old settled section of the country. They are for the most part mountainous forests, which have been invaded by squatters and settlers, and which had been cut over of much of their good timber, so that it was, even when Dr. Schenck took hold of it, anything but an attractive proposition, notwithstanding the good work that had been done by his predecessors.

After a while, when he had become acquainted with the situation, and when he had abandoned some of this old methods and adopted ones that better fitted the new situation, when he had refigured his problems and restated his formula he started the Biltmore Forest School. That was about ten years ago and today that is the only forestry school in this country that all the time mixes the practical with the theoretical, that is in session the year round, and is constantly at work upon the real things involved in forestry from planting trees to running a saw mill and marketing its product.

This year begins the third decade of the forestry work at Biltmore and the second decade of Dr. Schenck's forest school, and he is going to celebrate. In doing so he asks not only the sympathy but the actual physical presence of all the timber owners and those interested in forestry who can spend four days at Biltmore. This is the way his breezy call starts out:

Dear Sir and Friend:

Rejoice with us! On the 26th day of November next we shall celebrate:

The twentieth anniversary of forestry at Biltmore together with

the tenth anniversary of the Biltmore Forest School.

Rejoice with us and make our hearts glad by your welcome presence at the forestry festivals, beginning on

THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1908,

and ending on

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1908.

You may have heard something of the farms and of the forests found on the Biltmore Estate.

Now we beg of you: *Come and see them for yourself!*

Whatever we possess, in forests and in farms, we shall throw open to you for three days—and it shall be yours!

The members of the forest school and the employees of the forest department will be placed at your service, acting as your personal guides during your sojourn.

Then comes the program. The first day, Thursday,

November 26, is an excursion over the Biltmore estate and inspection of forest plantations replanted in white pine, yellow pine and hardwoods. There will be a lunch in the woods. Then examination of a natural second growth yellow pine tract ten to twenty years old, showing the results of forestry methods in this direction. In the evening there will be a dinner in "Battery Park" hotel in Asheville. That is the program in brief for Thursday.

On Friday the celebrants will visit the herbarium and nurseries, see how reforestation is getting on and how raising yellow poplar from the seed is done. In the afternoon there will be trips to plantations of pine, locust, cherry, walnut, sugar maple etc., established in 1899, and also to some of later date. That evening there will be a possum hunt with a barbecue and much rejoicing.

Saturday there will be a trip by train to Pisgah forest with carriage rides out into the woods. Here will be seen logging operations and the result in primeval forests of conservative logging that was done in 1895-7. Those who wish may ascend Mt. Pisgah (5,700 feet in height) at sunset and spend the night at the hunting lodge.

Sunday, November 29, will be goodbye day.

Following is a reprint of a copy of the appeal which

Dr. Schenck has sent out to various classes of people:

THESE ARE THE INDUCEMENTS:

There is not, and there can not be offered in the United States, an opportunity better than that existing at Biltmore for the study of

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and of its actual results, obtained with an eye single to success by twenty years of uninterrupted activity! Just think of it! You shall see the forests in all stages of their development, from the embryo forests planted in 1908 up to the primeval woods containing trees antedating, by their birth, the discovery of America. You will be shown the difficulties, the expense accounts and the revenue sheets of the first forestry practiced on American soil, within an area of 130,000 acres, the property of George W. Vanderbilt.

Ye statesmen! Come and assimilate that experience in forestry which the people are anxious for you to possess!

Ye lumbermen! Come and obtain, seeing the workings of practical forestry at Biltmore, some inspirations for forestal attempts on your own holdings!

Ye engineers! Come and study the results of afforestation, accomplished on 2,500 acres of fields once abandoned by the farmer!

Ye foresters! Come and learn from the woods rather than from the books the methods by which trees must be raised and tended!

Statesman! Lumberman! Engineer! Forester! Come! and be welcome!

This event is not a free excursion. Everybody will have to pay his own bills; but it won't cost any more than a man who wishes to make it, and such a trip and study of practical forestry will be worth the cost.