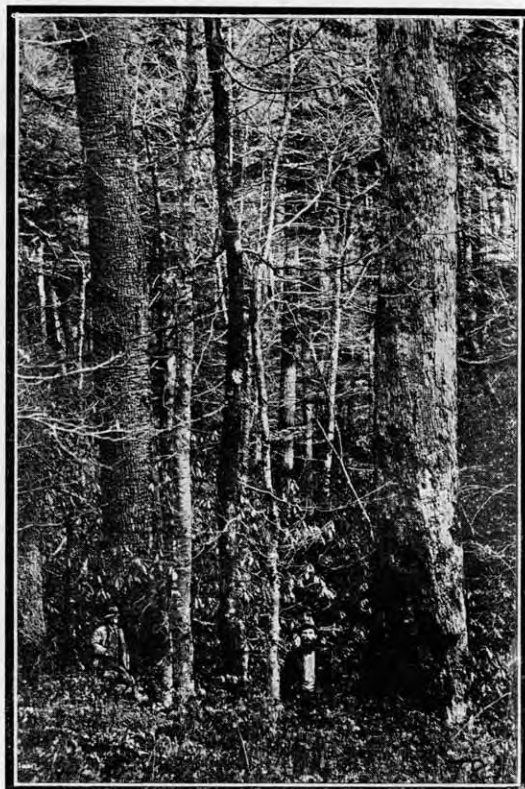


The Appalachian National Forest

BY W. B. TOWNSEND

President of the Hardwood Manufacturers' Association of the United States



YELLOW POPLAR and Cucumber in Mixed Forest, Showing the Denseness of the Growth.

PEOPLE all over the country, especially those interested in timber and lumber, as also those living in or adjacent to the region of the Southern Appalachians are more or less interested in what the government is likely to do, or is doing, with reference to the establishment of the Appalachian Park. Undoubtedly there has never been launched in this or any other country a project of such importance to the community and to the states, especially those east of the Mississippi river.

When we consider the magnitude of this proposition and what it contemplates, it is surprising that there seems to be so little known about it; even those directly interested, as well as those that should be interested greatly, in this grand proposition, are woefully ignorant of its provisions. Their inactivity indicates unpardonable lack of interest.

I am satisfied that if the people could appreciate what this movement means to the future of this country and future generations, they would become mightily interested, and assist to the establishment of it in the same measure and show the same interest that is shown in political measures of vastly less importance to the majority of the people.

Attitude of West Comes With Poor Grace.

I believe it is not generally known that there is any particular opposition to the Weeks bill under which, and only under which, it is possible for the establishment of this park reserve. This opposition is not being waged in the open. I do not believe it is necessarily very serious, for the reason that it seems to come entirely from the states west of the Mississippi Valley, and when it is considered what the national government has done for these states by way of public grants and domains, the maintaining of the various reservations at a considerable cost to the people, as also the extensive irrigating plants built and being built by the government, it certainly comes with very poor grace that these people who have been benefited to the extent of the expenditure of many millions of dollars annually from the national treasury should object to the small appropriation needed for the purpose of establishing a reserve in the Southern Appalachian and White Mountain regions.

The framers of the Weeks act and the promoters and those who have labored diligently in its interest, will only receive their reward from future generations, and the people years hence will rise up and call them "Blessed." They will be glad to respect their memory to a degree second only to the name of Seward, for the purchase of Alaska, provided, of course, that the measure is made a suc-

cess, by the acquisition of a sufficient amount of territory to make the project a worthy one.

Forest Service Doing Noble Work.

The Forest Service, under whose direction the work is being carried on, and whose business it is to recommend to the National Forest Reservation Commission the lands proposed for purchase, are doing a very noble work and are doing it very well indeed. I have met many of these leaders in the field, as also in their department work at Washington, D. C., and I am impressed with their ability and fidelity, and with their untiring energy and zeal towards the object to be attained. I am firmly convinced that as a class or department, there are no people connected with the government or any other work, within the borders of these states, that sacrifice and endure hardship for the pure love of the work, as much as do the people directly connected with the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture of the United States. From observation and from what I know of their methods, I am confident that this condition is certain to continue,



W. B. TOWNSEND.

provided the service is not injured or interfered with by reason of being transferred or hampered in its work and is kept out of politics as it is today. I am furthermore fully satisfied in view of the sound practical business sense and ability displayed in this work that it is certain to be only a few years until the Forest Service of our national government will be self-sustaining. When we consider its recent origin, together with the work that has been accomplished during its brief existence, its record is truly marvelous and the efficient management of this service today is a positive guarantee of its unbounded success. It would certainly be a great disaster to this country if this service should ever become honeycombed with politics and thereby become subject to the whims of the demagogue.

Some of the Troubles Encountered.

Now referring to some of the troubles incident to the establishment of the park reserve, in the Southern Appalachians under the Weeks act, perhaps the greatest source of trouble is the extent of the uncut lands at the headwaters of the streams which is the specific boundaries designated for purchase. Under the Weeks law, there was no authority given for the purchase of standing timber, hence arrangements for the cutting of these uncut lands are necessary, and in many cases the Forest Service is greatly handicapped by reason of the owners being unwilling to submit to proper rules and regulations for the cutting of the uncut lands. In addition to this, as is well known in the region set apart, many titles have not been perfected, and by reason of the lax state laws and entire absence of any laws with reference to unceded lands, grants and claims have been lapped on top of each other until it is quite difficult to know who the real owners are. The cleaning up of these titles is no small task and is more or less annoying and expensive. Of course, the expense must be borne by the owner or reputed owner. However, all these things tend to seriously interfere with the work and result in slow progress. This would not necessarily be such a serious matter if we had any assurance of appropriations

beyond the period of five years embraced in the original appropriation. There is no assurance whatever that there will be any appropriation made after the year 1915 for the purchase of these lands and all the money appropriated, namely, two million dollars per annum, from 1910 to 1915 inclusive, that is not used, must of necessity be returned to the treasury, for the reason the Comptroller of the Treasury has ruled that the appropriation cannot lap one year onto the other. In other words, the two million dollars appropriated for the purchase of lands in 1911 must be used up, or at least contracted for during that year. Any part of it that is not expended must be returned to the Treasury so that according to the progress being made it is certain that almost one-half of the ten million dollars appropriated is likely not to be used.

It is admitted that the money could be easily used if it were not for the fact that politics and everything of a political nature is entirely eliminated from the work and the fact that the Forest Service not only considers the location, desirability and adaptability of the land for the purpose intended, but also makes a careful survey of the property with regard to its intrinsic value and recommends to the commission the price to be paid. The commission has full authority to act and to overrule the Forest Service on any of these points, but that is entirely unlikely, as the commission is composed of splendid practical business men, and the country can rest assured that every cent of money for this purpose will be judiciously expended.

Magnificent Investment for the Government.

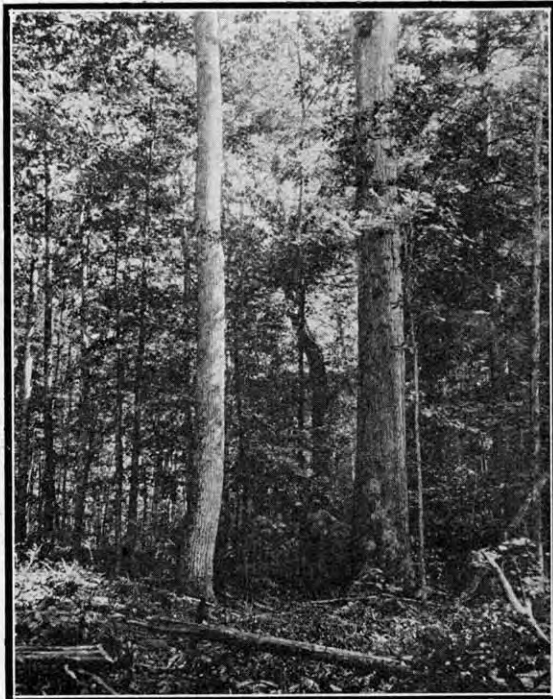
Aside from all sentiment, as also the protection of waterways at the headwaters of the navigable streams, the purchase of this land in the southern Appalachian is a magnificent business proposition for the government. I have recently said to those interested in this work that if it were possible for an individual or a corporation to be exempt from taxation and interest charges on investments, they could well afford to buy these lands as a strictly business proposition, but, of course, this is impossible. The government alone is exempt from these charges, hence the only source through which these forests can be reserved. The increased value of hardwood stumpage is certain to make it a good business proposition for the government.

Association Work and Its Province.

This great work of conservation which the government is doing naturally leads us into contemplating the future, into association work and its province. Regardless of the fact that the "Trust-busters" regard the "busting up" of all associations as one of their chief duties, yet it must be admitted by all sober thinking people that associations are the life of our people and our country. We find associations everywhere in all lines of endeavor, from the church to the saloon elements, and from the largest industrial corporations to the smallest shopkeeper in the alley. This is only natural and to be expected, and why should the lumber interests be singled out and be made the subject of attack? Associations, as will be admitted, are a great benefit to the lumber industry, among manufacturers and millmen, among the jobbers and wholesale trade, and equally so among the retail trade. Legitimate efforts on the part of intelligent people for the ex-



BEECH, BIRCH AND OAK Forest. Large areas of this type of forest at high altitudes are only lightly culled. This is the kind of land the Government is looking for.



YELLOW POPLAR, White Pine and Sweet Gum Forest in the Appalachians.

change of thought and practical and safe business methods, can hurt no one and is sure to benefit those directly interested, as also the community in which they operate.

Referring specifically to the Hardwood Manufacturers' Association of the United States, of which I have the honor of being president, the advantages and benefits derived by the millmen by reason of the exchange of opinions, the improvement of and the proper manufacture of logs into lumber can scarcely be estimated. Much has been said and much has been written lately, and the papers now seem to be full of the question of the proper grading of lumber, as also the amount graded or claimed to be graded by associations. Proper grading of lumber is an important item, and properly receives

careful attention by the Manufacturers' Association and is deserving of most careful attention by all interested. Also of vast importance to the trade is the wording of the rules for the inspection of lumber as well as the proper interpretation and application of those rules, but of no less importance to the manufacturer is the proper manufacture of lumber. Not only to avoid miss-cuts, but it is of equal importance that the logs should be manufactured into the kind of lumber best adapted for the purpose and that will bring the best price for which the product of that particular log is capable and after the millman has accomplished this, he can with assurance state, that lumber properly made is not hard to grade, and will sell itself.

The millman who has lumber on hand, from every point of view properly made, does not need to worry as to under what rules he must sell, as the lumber will sell itself, but, on the other hand, the man who has a yard full of miss-cuts and filled up with 4-4 when 8-4 is active, and 4-4 dull, is the man who frequently becomes the victim and must submit to the rules of the buyer. These are some of the benefits to derived from proper association work. These things, together with the fraternalism and proper and unprejudiced exchange of thought, and the establishment of proper credits, embrace perhaps the real value of association work.

My advice to millmen has always been:

First, and of vast importance, be careful what you cut. Cut your logs the proper length.

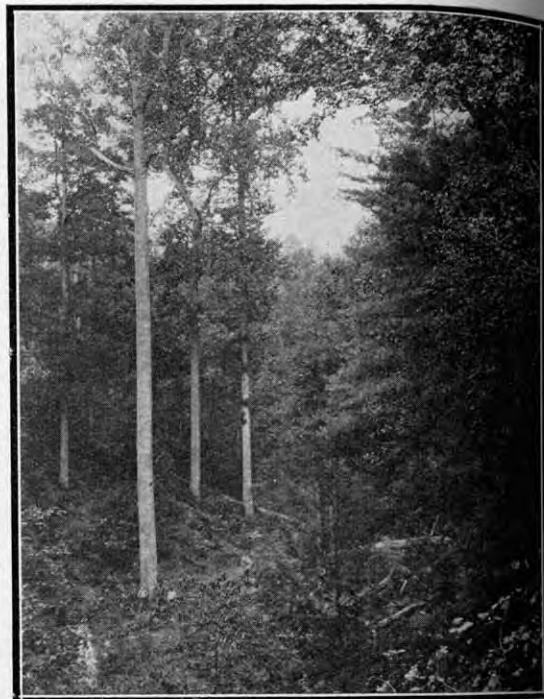
Second, saw them into the proper thickness.

Third, do it exceedingly well.

Should Not Increase Mill Capacity.

And for the last few years I have supplemented this by, Do not build a new mill or increase your present capacity. If you attend to these things well, and give a good honest grade, the buyer will not necessarily be interested in the rules we ship under nor will we have trouble to any extent by reinspection, and if we adhere to these honest, commonplace business methods, the "Trust-busters can Bust."

I believe that we are wasting time in attempting to reduce the much discussed high cost of living rather than devoting our energies with a view of bringing our surroundings up to the present high plane of living, blazed out by the American. Nothing but a revolution will reverse these conditions,



MIXED SLOPE FOREST of Chestnut, Maple and Oak, recommended for purchase by the Forest Service.

and as we must admit that the necessities of today were absolutely luxuries only a short time ago, and this nation and its people have never as yet taken a backward step, why should we begin now? We have always been the beacon light for all the rest of the world with regard to aggressive and progressive methods, and we are certain to so continue. Then away with the "trust-busters," muckrakers and demagogues, and let us live happy in the satisfaction of knowing we are superior in most things, and that we must adapt ourselves to the changed and changing conditions, and, if necessary, rather than destroy the large industries of the land, let us pension the fellow in the rear who can't keep up, rather than handicap the leader.