

THREE DAYS' FOREST FESTIVAL ON THE BILTMORE ESTATE.

The Feast That Followed the First Day's Fair—Thanksgiving Diners Guests of Forester Schenck—A Tribute in Song—Informal Speeches at an Informal, Sumptuous Banquet—Visitors' Variants on Phases of Forestry—An Appreciation of George W. Vanderbilt.

CHAPTER XXIII—THE THANKSGIVING DINNER.

The last previous instalment of the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN'S story of the great three days' "forest festival," held in November last on the estate of George W. Vanderbilt, at Biltmore, N.C., under the initiative and charge of Forester C. A. Schenck, concluded with a brief biographical sketch of that master of forestry and brought to a termination the outdoor enjoyment of the day. The first day, Thanksgiving Day, was concluded by a banquet given at the Battery Park hotel, Asheville, N.C., a courtesy extended by Dr. Schenck to his many guests. Those at the dinner included most of those whose names were published in the list appearing in the LUMBERMAN of December 5, augmented by George S. Powell, secretary Board of Trade, Asheville; H. Taylor Rogers, Asheville; J. P. Sawyer, president Battery Park bank, Asheville; Owen Gudger, Asheville; Burt C. Mason, Mason-Featherstone Lumber Company, Asheville; Rev. R. R. Swope, rector All Souls' Church, Biltmore.

The dinner, for which an elaborate menu had been prepared, began about 9 o'clock in the evening and was purely informal, as was announced by Dr. Schenck, who presided at the banquet and who said that any who had speeches to make might preferably make them before the conclusion of the feasting—

for very good reasons; whereas after the dinner if the German has drunk one or two bottles of Rhine wine his mind and wit are not as clear as before the dinner is finished, consequently I am going to make my dinner speech now [applause], but it is not going to be much of a speech, but simply the simplest kind to be made—d thanks and on a Thanksgiving subject.

There are so many things for which we should be thankful and so many men to whom I feel thankful that I do not know where to begin, but I begin with you, my friends. I thank the last one of you for taking the trouble of coming down here. You honor me by your presence and you give me your backing by your presence. Thank you, gentlemen, every one of you, for coming and helping me, and by your presence giving me that backing which we require. Living in the woods, never seeing anyone except perhaps the president of the bank when we are short of money, and never meeting any other civilized persons, we are particularly glad and particularly thankful for your coming and helping us to celebrate in a humble and simple way the tenth anniversary of my dear and beloved forest school. [Applause].

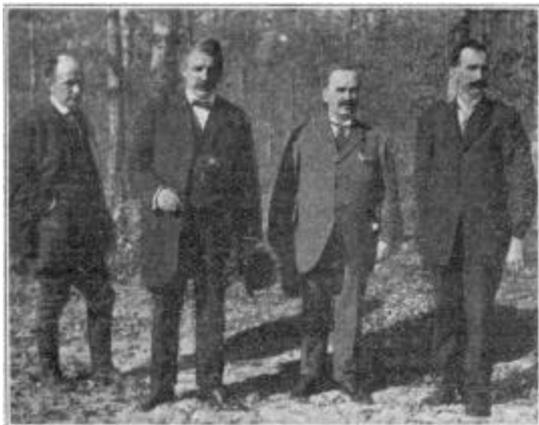
There are many gentlemen to whom I am particularly obliged and feel thankful today. There are above all the various chiefs of the other departments on the estate, of the religious department headed by the Rev. Dr. Swope, and the electrical department and many others. I am thinking of these gentlemen who helped me in these tasks, and I thank you all, gentlemen.

And then comes, not to be forgotten, my beloved old boys, little boys who are now out in life and who came o share with us today in helping to celebrate and again to assure me that they are yet affiliated with the old-young institution ten years old. I thank you, boys!

And there is another man, last but not least, whom I want to mention. George Vanderbilt. [Applause]. George is not here today and does not know anything of little fuss, but I want to say that George Vanderbilt is a nobly spirited American; as high principled a man as I ever met; a man of high ideals; reticent if you meet him but of splendid purposes, and who has given to me all I want of a chance to develop, a chance to work, chances to put in our ideas, and I thank Mr. Vanderbilt. [Applause]. And now, if you will all do me a favor, join me in three cheers for George Vanderbilt.

This was followed by all rising and cheering for the master of the Biltmore estate.

The cheering was followed by an innovation as cheering as it was interesting. The strong, fresh voices of the attending pupils of the Biltmore Forest School rang out in their original college songs, the apparent disrespect in one, "The Man Who Looks Like the Kaiser," being in reality intended as a mark of respect and esteem and so accepted by him who, facially and in virile strength, reflects the ruler of his native country, and who beamed appreciatively upon his pupils as they sang. They were rewarded with three cheers. The song is given here:



C. A. KEFFER, W. B. TOWNSEND, J. E. DEFEBAGH,
C. T. RANKIN

THE MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE THE KAISER.

Who is the man that is riding along;
Singing the words of an old German song,
Telling the boys that the road is run wrong?
'Tis the man that looks like the Kaiser.

Who is the man on the cold black steed,
Riding along at the utmost speed,
Little fur muff and a cap o' green tweed?
'Tis the man who looks like the Kaiser.

Who is the man on the horse named Punch,
Riding along at the head of the bunch,
Don't even give us the time to eat lunch?
'Tis the man who looks like the Kaiser.

Who is the man that juggles the chalk,
Tells us the freight rate from here to New York,



"THE MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE THE KAISER."

Says 1.0p is the price of salt pork?
'Tis the man who looks like the Kaiser.

Who is the man that corrects our "exams,"
Tells us our papers are not worth two damns;
Saying our answers are nothing but shams?
'Tis the man who looks like the Kaiser.

After the jovial uproar had subsided J. E. Defebaugh, editor of the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN, spoke as follows, observing Dr. Schenck's request to the effect that each should speak "as the spirit moved him":

The good old custom of conducting an affair of this kind in the German way is one which commends itself to all of us. I am sure, and in recognition of that custom I feel as I did a few weeks ago when I visited a Quaker meeting in Pennsylvania—I feel that the spirit is about to move me. I want to express personally my thanks to Dr. Schenck for the many good things he has done to me in the last ten years, by counsel, by friendly action of one kind or another in this country and abroad, for I had the very distinguished pleasure of meeting him when he was abroad with his pupils—

Dr. Schenck—When we met at the Hofbrau house in Munich.

Mr. Defebaugh—And I enjoyed his hospitality there. During all these ten years I have hoped for the privilege of meeting him here, and now having enjoyed with all of you today's delightful experiences, and having in prospect another day or two, I feel that I must express myself briefly, and particularly because it is Thanksgiving day and because Dr. Schenck has sounded the keynote for speech making here tonight. So rather than say anything of a general character I am going to speak about men, for the one thing of all that impressed me today was the beauty and utility of Dr. Schenck's work in the field and in his school and as exemplified in the work as we have found it.

In addition to the trees, the vistas of mountain, forest and stream which we have seen, the beauties of nature, which have interested us and which we expect will interest us in retrospect for many a day. I could not help but think of the men here in the making as phases of the many things for which we have to be thankful, and I recalled a little poem that I had in my pocket, written by the "Lumberman Poet" of the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN, of which I have the privilege of being editor. It is a Thanksgiving poem, and I will read it:

WE THANK THEE.
Not for our wealth of trees
We thank Thee, Lord,
Not for the victories
Of our good sword,
Not for our fruitful fields
And sun and rain,
Nor for their yellow yields
Of garnered grain,
Not for the builded stone
Our wealth to hoard—

Nay, not for these alone
We thank Thee, Lord.
For there are other gifts
Our eyes may see—
A greater treasure lifts
Our hearts to Thee.

We thank Thee, Lord, for men
That time reveals
Who toil with voice and pen
For high ideals.
We thank Thee, lord, for eyes
That see the right,
For full-orbed souls that rise
Upon the night.

A public purpose true
We thank Thee for,
A conscience made anew
On wrong to war,
For greater victories
Than those of sword—
For blessings such as these
We thank Thee, Lord.

Protection of Southern Forests.

A call was made for D. T. Keith, of Wilmington, N.C., who responded by reading a paper on "The Future Destiny of the South Depends Upon the Protection of Its Forests." Mr. Keith paid his respects to the longleaf, shortleaf and loblolly pine of the south, their durability and their immense value from various economical standpoints, during which he said:

Take the forests of North Carolina as a whole, comprising its cypress, ash, elm, tupelo, sweet and red gum, poplar, oak, hickory, basswood and hemlock, producing more than their proportion of the 300 species in the south and constituting a great portion of the wealth of our state and southland; it is estimated that three-fifths of the standing timber of the United States is now in the south and that one-half of the labor employed in the forests of the United States is employed in the south, producing annually something like \$175,000,000, while the north and west have almost depleted their supply. That being true, the main source of supply of this product must come from the south in the future. At the rapid rate at which it is being cut, the government report says, the supply will last only about twenty-eight years longer. Isn't it time for every thinking person to sit up and take notice of the merciless destruction of our forests, which is destroying our agricultural as well as greatly affecting our manufacturing interests?

Mr. Keith referred to the piney wood "rooter," scrub cattle and reckless lumbermen as the greatest enemies of the forest. He went into details of the destruction which they wrought. He referred to foreign methods of forest conservation as an object lesson for our own country and concluded by saying:

For that reason it behoves every North Carolinian to appeal to our present legislators to give us a statutory stock law, and if they are statesmen worthy to represent the great state of North Carolina they will protect the future and its unborn generations, rather than listen to the clamor of a few who may not want to be restricted to slaughtering the forest, and those who may have the piney woods rooter and scrub cattle which they want to run at large, destroying annually more than they would bring if they were put upon the market, besides being distributors of disease, which makes it almost impossible for the progressive element in this state to raise stock profitably.

Can't we all stand together and form one solid body pleading the just cause before the legislature in January for the protection of our forests, which means more than most statesmen can conceive of? If so, begin now the movement we are advocating by writing your representative to give us state stock law, and our national forest reserve, that the nation, especially North Carolina, is looking to with so



B. L. ELLIOTT AND R. S. CONKLIN.

much favor, will be solved to a great extent by beginning it at home.

A Pennsylvanian's Views.

The next speaker was B. L. Elliott, commissioner of forestry of Pennsylvania, who was called for by a score of voices and responded:

I do not know why you should call upon me to talk to you. I do not know much about forestry. True, I have worked at it more or less seventy odd years, and I have been around today to learn something about it, and have learned a great deal. I have been very thankful to Dr. Schenck for the mistakes he has made and the intelligence and sincerity with which he has admitted them. [Applause.] I came here because I thought I would get at the truth. I don't know much about forestry.

Here Mr. Elliott related a humorous story illustrative of his point and continued:

It is just that way with me. There are some things I do not know about forestry and one I wish to learn about is, how are we going to reforest our country by annual reproduction? I cannot see the way to do it. When you destroy all of the timber or let fire destroy it and the seed you cannot expect something for nothing.

A great percentage of our country will not be reforested. You must plant trees. I may be ignorant and I may disagree with many of you but present methods do not seem effective. I have seen the second crop harvested, but that was the end of it. There never was to be a third crop. How are we to exercise the police power to control the country and plant trees? It must be done in some shape, but how I am not lawyer enough to determine, but we have to control the forests in that way or we shall fail of our intent.

I don't know how the lumberman should be blamed, charged with destroying the timber of the country when a man much cut everything he can sell to make a profit on it. It is unreasonable to expect a man to cut timber to sell for less than he could get out of it. The rod man takes all that he can, the railroad tie man and the pulp man and he leaves nothing as thick as my arm. I will not complain of that man if he will replant the trees. Another thing I don't know: how you expect people to reforest the country and tax us for our land as we are taxed today. It can not be done. [Applause.]

Our state of Pennsylvania I boast of. It has done as much probably as any state in the Union for forestry and, I believe, has the best organization, but it can not do much in the face of exorbitant taxes.

A Philanthropist's Impressions.

A call was made for the Hon. James H. Stout, of Menomonie, Wis., who said briefly:

I am not at all accustomed to public speaking, but I can not forbear making a few remarks. After driving over a small area of the Biltmore estate I am deeply impressed with the spirit that the students of this school seem to have, and I trust that as they go on with the work it will be a constant inspiration to them to serve their country along that line. I am also impressed with this fact: while the work being done here by Dr. Schenck and by his school is very valuable it is of advantage for you to think of the influence that grows out of the work here, that you and I and all of us will carry to our homes.

I desire now to thank the doctor very kindly for having given me an opportunity to be present and to go up and look over the fine work they are now doing, and I hope this may be only the beginning of many more forest festivals. [Applause.]

Praise from the Pastor.

Responding to a popular call, Rev. R. P. Swope, of Biltmore, N.C., rector of All Souls' Church, said in part:

As the representative of the ecclesiastical department of the Biltmore estate I want to express my gratification at seeing such an assemblage here at this time, and incidentally to give my indorsement of the moral character of Dr. Schenck. [Applause.] The boys sang that he looks like the Kaiser; he has a good many of the high qualities also that distinguish our own chief magistrate. He is an appreciative lover of nature; he also appreciates keeping in touch with the younger generation that is coming into his hands and he is molding them to make of them successful foresters.

I think the doctor has shown you a great deal today that is very valuable. He will show you more tomorrow and still more on Saturday. You go through the estate and see what is being done and I think you will realize that he has here not merely a vista of scenic beauty but a good, sound business proposition which will work out nicely for the community and the state and the nation and for generations to come.

Here Dr. Swope told a humorous story wholly in keeping with the cloth and emphasizing his address. He concluded by saying:

I trust that the circumstances which have brought us together on this tenth anniversary of the forest school will work to bring you together at the twentieth anniversary. [Applause.]

Wisconsin's Appreciation.

The next speaker was Lamont Rowlands, of the C. A. Goodyear Lumber Company, Tomah, Wis., who said:

I feel deeply grateful for all the good I have been getting today.

For a number of years I have been quite interested in forestry and have read all that I could get in that line that I had the capacity to appreciate, but since this day's journeyings with Dr. Schenck I appreciate that there has been so much to learn that I really feel that I have not yet touched the surface. I would like to say something to show my appreciation of the wonderful work that the doctor is doing, and I think I can best express myself by saying that I hope the good Lord will protect and care for him and allow him to see some of his high ideals realized. [Applause.]

The spirit next moved H. L. Eickelberger, of Staunton, Va., who said:

I have nothing further to say than that I want to say that I thank you very much for the opportunity to be known to you. I came especially to be with you. We have been interested for a number of years in our timber and hope to carry out some of your ideas as illustrated here. We need them in our business and I am sure all practical lumbermen who are looking to reforestation would much rather have in their employ Biltmore men than Yale men. [Prolonged applause.]

A Pennsylvania Forest Schoolmaster.

Several of the banqueters called for Robert S. Conklin, of Pennsylvania, who said:

I desire to thank you personally for the opportunity which you have given me to see something that I do not think we could see anywhere else in this country. I do not think any other place can show us the planting, the nurseries and the school that you have all within one area.

I was very much impressed today with the young men of your school. I suppose I noticed them more particularly because I am a director of a little forest school in Pennsylvania in which we have thirty students endeavoring to teach them the same principles that you are here—practical work—and it pleased me very much to see that they were so attentive to ever work Dr. Schenck spoke and every motion that he made. There did not seem to be anything that escaped them and they seemed to be perfectly in sentiment with you, which shows good judgment on their part. They have before them a life that I think no other profession can equal. They are going to do work not so much probably for themselves as for the future generations. Therefore the responsibility is all the greater on them.

In Pennsylvania we have done a little practical work, but not what we should have done. While we have purchased 816 acres of land we have done very little in the way of improving it. We thought that we would better get the land and in that way tie the state down by caring for it than to risk getting enough appropriation to care for it at this time. I hope that in the coming season the legislature will give us enough money to do some work—something that we can in twenty years show you as you have shown us here today. I would like very much if I were living twenty years from now and in the forestry ranks to be able to show each one of the gentlemen here today what Pennsylvania will have done by that time and I believe that we would equal what you have done here, and you, Dr. Schenck, have done better than any other person yet that I know of in this country.

I thank you for the opportunity to be present today and to see what I have and learn what I have, which is a good deal, and I hope you will continue in your work—continue to educate young men for the work you are doing here today.

Mr. Rowlands here proposed three cheers for Doctor Schenck, which were given by all present. They accentuated the compliment by rising, after which the diners joined generally in singing "For He Is a Jolly Good Fellow."

Dr. Schenck—I asked my neighbor here a question which he did not answer—what would he do if he were a peacock? I told him if I were a peacock I would have my tail feathers spread out like this just now. [Laughter and applause.]

Forestry in the Empire State.

Before the laughter and applause had subsided C. R. Pettis, state forester of New York, was called. He said:

I was sent down here from New York to get the benefit of Dr. Schenck's lectures. I have only heard part of them yet but I am more than doubly repaid for my trip.

I would like to say just a word or so about our work in New York, and I can only say that by comparison. As to acreage, our reserve land is about ten times the acreage of the Biltmore estate, or 1,800,000 acres. The land we are planting there is not land that cost \$30 an acre; it is land on which the people who owned it would not pay the taxes; it is almost like a sandy beach. I was much interested this morning in another way; in the thought of the difference in conditions, how you are planting here today while in the loose sand at Saranac lake we have little opportunity. The returns from our land are much different from those Dr. Schenck receives. We have a constitutional provision prohibiting cutting on state land under penalty of \$10 a tree. This year I would not dare to say how many thousands of dollars' worth of timber has been burned and killed and left on the ground which could have been utilized but for the constitution absolutely prohibiting that, and it was left a dead loss.

Our planting up there amounts to \$20,000 worth a year, but none of our planting compares in any respect with that which Dr. Schenck has done here. Another word I had wished to say was that I had the pleasure of working for nearly two years with one of the graduates of the Biltmore school, and if all of the students are or will be of the standard that he was, I am sure there is no question about the quality of the men graduated from Biltmore.

I hope I will be able to come back twenty years from now and see Dr. Schenck and his work. [Applause.]

A short speech was delivered by one of its representatives on behalf of the engineering department of the school, in which high tribute was paid to Dr. Schenck and the extraordinary value of his work past and present.

The Asheville Spirit.

Another speech with local flavor was made by a citizen of Asheville, in part as follows:

As a citizen of Asheville I wish to express my gratitude and my appreciation of what the Biltmore estate has done for Asheville and western North Carolina. I believe I voice the sentiment of 90 percent of the people of this section when I say that every influence that has been sent out from this magnificent estate has been for good and for the uplifting of our people. [Applause.] We feel grateful to the Biltmore estate for having Dr. Schenck in our midst. We feel grateful to Dr. Schenck for having brought you gentlemen on this occasion and we hope you will come again. [Applause.]

E. P. Broadhurst, of Greensboro, N.C., in charge of the legal department of the Biltmore estate, made an address which from a humorous point of view was the gem of the evening. It was largely a repetition of humorous stories one after another, told in inimitable style, illustrative of conditions on the Biltmore estate generally and in the Biltmore Forest School particularly, with an undercurrent of seriousness.

From an Instructor's Standpoint.

Collier Cobb, of the faculty of the Biltmore Forest School and of the University of North Carolina, followed. Pertinent portions of his remarks include the following:

I have been greatly interested in the general trend of the remarks bearing on the saving of our forests, but there are many difficulties in the way that even Mr. Keith may not have thought of.

This point Mr. Cobb emphasized by a humorous story and continued:

In a state like ours Mr. Keith would have some difficulty in getting stock laws passed that would keep the razorback out of the roots of our trees, and yet that is one of the important things to do and it is a problem that will have to be solved somewhere. Taking my cue from him, I would like to emphasize a few things that he brought out in his paper.

Here Mr. Cobb emphasized some of the points of Mr. Keith's address by comparison with conditions abroad, urging particularly the necessity of keeping stock off of forest land, and saying:

If we can have laws of that kind passed in all the states the problem of reforestation would soon solve itself. It has shown that right here in this forest. We are seeing marked changes wrought by Dr. Schenck along that line. He has not always succeeded in keeping the razorback out of the forest and those in his forests have become roley-poley porkers and are well worth while, as the bears and some of the forest students have already learned. And yet it is very hard for some of us to realize that this can be accomplished. As a representative of the University of North Carolina I rejoice in the work that Dr. Schenck is doing here.

Here the speaker referred in detail to the fact that 125,000 acres of the Biltmore estate had at one time been legally an asset of the University of North Carolina but had reverted to the Biltmore estate, and he said:

We have cause for thanksgiving that that forest has fallen into the hands of such a good man as Dr. Schenck and I believe that the state is going to gain more from it as an object lesson to the state in Dr. Schenck's hands than if we ourselves possessed it. [Applause.]

The speaker stated that the accomplishments of the Biltmore estate in the way of conservative forestry were an object lesson of what the state in cooperation and the national government might accomplish on a larger scale.

North Carolina and Virginia Sentiment.

J. Elwood Cox, of High Point, N.C., paid a glowing tribute to the work of the Biltmore estate generally and to its high forester especially. He was followed by Mr. Broadhurst, who introduced Frederick N. Tate, of High Point, who said briefly:



RAPID TRANSIT FOR NORTH CAROLINA MOONSHINER



A GLIMPSE OF THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER IN THE BILTMORE ESTATE.

I am no speech maker and can only express my appreciation by thanking you and incidentally paying a compliment to Doctor Schenck's yellow poplar, with which we cannot hope to compete, and I think that is quite a compliment to the doctor.

J. B. Manson, of Petersburg, Va., said in part:

I want to thank Dr. Schenck as a guest from the Old Dominion, the mother state. I do not know whether there is anyone else here from Virginia, but I want to thank you for my presence here, which was unexpected.

I have been so interested today and so entertained and so impressed that I want to go back a try to induce our legislators to do something to establish a preserve in our state. I think the different states ought to work together a while and I hope to get back and inculcate some ideas that you have enabled me to learn today.

A Harvard Teacher's Views.

Prof. John G. Jack, of the Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, was here introduced and said in part:

The arboretum is not the forest school but it may be useful in connection with the forest school. It is an institution started as a technical garden for the study of trees, and, of course, they have to be trees adapted to our climate, and we find that the arboretum was started something like thirty years ago; in fact, the first trees planted were put out in the spring of 1896, the spring I first went there, and it is really a section of trees as individuals and not under forest conditions. We have, however, in the last five years started a forest school that is quite distinct from the arboretum which is under separate management.

The forest school is not the scientific school and has been until this year an undergraduate school, students taking the regular course when finishing. This year we have started it as a postgraduate course, taking in students from any college of school from which go out students who have passed the needed requirements. We have only thirteen students now. Last year and in years before we had some undergraduates who were not taking the full course; we have now thirteen who seem to be very promising young men.

Of course, we had in the first four years to go out on private lands in the vicinity for field work. This summer we have had 2,000 acres of land given us. This forest is 2,000 acres, composed mainly of white pine and with a good deal of hardwoods also. They estimate about 10,000,000 feet of white pine ready for marketing, and that will be gradually cut, furnishing opportunities for the students to study lumbering conditions to an extent, this to be supplemented by further work in the field.

That is all I should say about our forest school. It is not really a new school but, compared with the Biltmore school which has been so well established and with Yale and even with Michigan and some others, it is comparatively raw, but we hope with all the advantages which Harvard has it will become a good school, not only ethically and technically but a good practical school also, because the practical work is what is valued. The Yale students ought to turn out pretty good men in some cases, but there, no doubt, will be some failures as in others.

I think the whole country generally and the forest schools particularly owe a good deal to Dr. Schenck for the example he has set. I have heard criticisms about German methods and American methods and how unsuited German and foreign methods were to American forest conditions, but we must be guided by the results of experiments and I have always had full sympathy with these experiments because I have realized that while American methods and commonsense lumbering were very valuable the time would come when German methods would be more appreciated in their exactness; that their statistical faculties would be more developed, and I think that in the last half dozen years they have been advanced very much in this country and Dr. Schenck has no doubt impressed his views upon this country a good deal and they have become Americanized and American teachers and others owe a great deal to the spirit he has infused in Germanizing to a certain extent American forests.

I don't think that Dr. Schenck takes proper credit to himself. I note this from one paragraph in his program. On the very last page, Tip No. 63, he says: "Do not talk to the conductor; the conductor is an ox; you will agree with me when you see him," but when you have seen Dr. Schenck hustle around as he has today you will concede that while he has the strength of an ox he has more responsibility and more initiative than the conductor, and he knows more about the forest than do the deer. [Applause.]

From the Legal Viewpoint.

The next speaker was Judge J. W. Judd, of the University of Tennessee, who after some remarks devoted courteously to one of the previous speakers said:

The little investigation that I have given this subject convinces me that the time has come in this country when we shall even up matters. They have denuded our forests, they threaten our soil, and hence the food of our people.

I have heard it suggested here tonight that there is probably under our system of government no constitutional power in the states and federal government to deal with this subject. Now, gentlemen, I am from the state of Tennessee, though a child of North Carolina. I am a democrat of democrats. I believe in the constitution of the government of the United States as it was written by our fathers. I do not believe in amending our constitution by judicial or legislative or executive construction [applause] nor do I think it necessary. We inherited the common law from England and our constitutions, both state and federal, must be constructed in light of this common law from which they were enacted. The highest law of all laws, that law that knows no superior, is that the safety of the public, the safety of the people, is the supreme law of the land. Our constitutions, as I say, both state and national, recognize in the mind of any constitutional lawyer that here is ample authority in the constitutions, both of the United States and of the states, to deal with this forestry question as it ought to be dealt with, nor can I find any serious difficulty in constructing a proper principle upon which the tax laws for the forest lands can not be predicated so as to do equal and exact justice to all. It is a principle that is recognized by all constitutional lawyers that the legislature has the power to classify subjects for taxation. It may classify corporations, railroads, it may classify the different subjects, and so it may classify lands for taxation and by that means so impose taxes upon forest lands as not only to do no injustice to their owners but to encourage the perpetuity of the forests and the constant growth of them so that their owners may get from them an income and at the same time preserve the forests and the water

sheds for the rivers and the waters for the cities.

In Tennessee we have more of the Tennessee and the Cumberland rivers as object lessons than any other state or states through which they flow. Suppose this watershed in the southern Appalachians is denuded; what becomes of those rivers? What becomes of our wells and our springs? I merely want to suggest to you this thought.

I saw so much today that I have not had time yet to digest it. I have been thinking about it and I shall take it home with me. I want to see all that I can tomorrow. I shall take that home with me. In due time when I get the subject more thoroughly digested I hope to be able to think out something else that will be of advantage to you, Dr. Schenck.

The way I came to be here is that I was imprudent enough to write a little pamphlet on this subject and somebody, I suppose it was the publishers, sent Dr. Schenck a copy, and I received from him a very prettily expressed invitation to come here and be with him and celebrate this forestry fair. He said that he wanted to see the man who wrote that little pamphlet and get personally acquainted with him. I wanted to see him and get personally acquainted with him.

I was forty-two years at the bar, and I have enjoyed, if you will pardon a personal allusion, a large part of it in teaching in the law department of the Vanderbilt University, of which the whole south is proud. [Applause.] The grandfather of the owner of this estate, Cornelius Vanderbilt, founded Vanderbilt University, the greatest educational institution today south of the Ohio river. I say that without detracting from any other, nor are there many north of the Ohio river superior to it. [Applause.] I do not believe that when Commodore Vanderbilt made his vast donation to the establishment of that great institution of learning he sensed the full force of what he was doing. I do not believe that he could have realized it, and yet he was a man of wisest prescience. I do not believe that this man here senses the full effect and wisdom of what he has done. I believe that the pebble that he has dropped into his ocean here will broaden and broaden and broaden. See these young men here that are being taught forestry in this country; see these people assembled here from every part of this great country of ours, riding over this land and getting an object lesson of what can be done by a German citizen. Take this in, gentlemen, and you may have some conception of what will happen in the next fifty, seventy-five, five hundred years from now growing out of this example.

Gentlemen, I predict the continued existence of the government of the United States and of the states. I admit no promise of problem that assumes for a moment to doubt the continuance of this government or the continuance of this people. We are here to stay. We have a government; we have a people; we have a country the like of which civilization has never produced before us. [Applause.] But recently in this county one-half was at war against the other half and we fought, as President Roosevelt recently said, until we were "beaten to a frazzle." Down south look at us today. Not less than twenty-five years from the time that the war closed confederate soldiers were upon the supreme bench of the United States, in both houses of congress, in the cabinet of the presidents; I myself had the honor to be appointed judge by a president of the United States. I bow my head to a civilization that can produce that result. [Applause.] Let us preserve our forests. Let the states do their duty within their constitutional limitations. Let our government at Washington do its duty and there will be little left to be done but to employ intelligent agents to carry forward the work.

I thank you, gentlemen, for your attention. I thank you for your invitation calling me here. [Prolonged applause.]

Clinton Crane, of Cincinnati, Ohio, followed Judge Judd, paying his respects to that gentleman and in a kindly way differing from him in regard to methods of forest conservation. He expressed his pleasure and acknowledged the advantages he had gained in visiting the Biltmore estate. He expressed and indebtedness to Dr. Schenck, saying: "I do not think another invitation could have taken me to Asheville at this time than yours."

The Fault for Denudation.

The next speaker touched a popular chord by saying:

I have heard several of the speakers say this evening that the lumbermen were destroying the forests. I say that, in this region especially, it is not eh lumbermen but the farmers. In a good many cases the lumberman is endeavoring to save a few good trees while the farmer has rolled them into a heap and destroyed them, also destroying the soil. The lumberman cuts out a few good trees and leaves the rest, but the farmer uses it all up, and I would suggest that everyone here - foresters, lumbermen and everyone interested—whenever they get a chance to talk to the small land owners and framers will tell them of the great things that are being done here in the way of plantations. I have done it myself to a large extent and got some interested enough to say that they will try it, and if that could be done here and there it would soon grow, because they

would see the value of it. The American farmer is not a fool. I have heard it suggested that these landmarks be preserved and in ten years from now all who could attend be taken over the same ground to see what has been done in ten years. I offer that as a suggestion. [Applause.]

Work of the Owner of Biltmore.

At this point remarks were made by Mr. Rowlands which met with popular sympathy. He said:

I think there is one point that we as a body have overlooked and that is to provide some suitable way in which we can best express our appreciation of the wonderful work Mr. Vanderbilt has been sponsor for here. He is no more than human and I think every man appreciates an expression of his brother's love and appreciation, and the last two of three years all we have heard from the sources of government has been to conserve, conserve. We have had a large Congress at Washington to devise ways of protecting our forests and other natural resources, but Mr. Vanderbilt, a man who perhaps has been left an unusual share of good things of life, has gone ahead practically and shown a large amount of good judgment, incidentally building a monument to himself but showing what an American citizen should be; and I think it would be a graceful act that a committee be appointed to draft up some resolutions that would be fitting for this occasion, showing our appreciation.

The suggestion, or motion, met with many seconds, but was held in abeyance for the time being.

Canadian Cooperation.

One of this distinguished Canadian visitors, Elwood Wilson, of Grand Mere, P. Q., was the next speaker. He said in part:

I will ask indulgence to say that Dr. Schenck's work has spread not only in the United States but in Canada and has brought a few Canadians down here to learn something. One characteristic of the American people is viewed sympathetically by the people of Canada. [Applause.] It is exemplified in a condition certainly fraught with great danger to the whole continent, all of its progress and all its welfare. An unfortunate characteristic of the American people in that they are lawless, especially lawless, where the forests are concerned. To the man indifferent to the forests, careless with his fires, with his matches, in his trespasses, the forest has been the great enemy of the people in clearing the country, and that trait is still inherent in almost all our people. The foresters above all people should be commissioners for the suppression of this lawlessness in regard to the forests.

The forester has a tremendous duty before him. All through the history of forestry in this country the movement has been carried on by men interested in the land who have given their service and their work unselfishly, by men who have been not only idealists but eminently practical. It is unnecessary to name them, but everyone knows Professor Roth, Gifford Pinchot, C. A. Schenck, what they have done for this country and what is being done through them in the way of education. And there are the embryo foresters of today, a magnificent body of young men going out and carrying on a great work, and Dr. Schenck is certainly doing an admirable part in it in training men to carry into the forests the principles of the engineers. These be men to look up to the world over, men who will handle a problem so that it will pay, which is the secret of forestry. And it is to be hoped that all the young men going out of here will bear in mind that they must not only utilize these teachings but must exercise them tactfully, be men of judgment, men of common sense, who will have all the good qualities of the oldest woodsmen, our forefathers in this country. [Applause.]

A motion was here offered and passed unanimously appointing Lamont Rowlands, of the C. A. Goodyear Lumber Company, Tomah, Wis.; J. E. Defebaugh, editor of the AMERICAN LUMBERMAN, Chicago, and Judge J. W. Judd, of the Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., a committee to formulate the resolutions offered by Mr. Rowlands appreciative of the services to his country generally and to conservative forestry specifically of George W. Vanderbilt, of Biltmore, N. C.

F. W. Rane, state forester of Massachusetts, addressed the banqueters, expressing his pleasure in the forest fair and its attendant festivities and his faith in the future of forestry.

The banquet closed at 11:55 p. m. with cheers for George W. Vanderbilt, C. A. Schenck, the Biltmore estate and the Biltmore Forest School.

(To be continued.)