

GOVERNOR DIXON DEDICATES FIRST
GROUP OF ALABAMA TREE FARMS IN
CEREMONIES AT BREWTON

Montgomery, Alabama, April 8--Owners of Alabama forests and woodlands can now point with pride to a new force designed to further help Nature in keeping the forests perpetual.

Known as the "ALABAMA TREE FARM SYSTEM", and sponsored by the Alabama State Chamber of Commerce, this new force for good forestry was formally dedicated on April 4 at Brewton, in the pine belt of the Southern part of the state. During the next several weeks it will be marked with other introductory meetings in other sections of Alabama. There are indications that in coming months it will spread to many or all parts of the nation.

Formation of a somewhat similar TREE FARM system in New York State already is being undertaken by leading timberland owners, and the Alabama procedure also is being studied for possible adoption by woodland operators in Arkansas. Important TREE FARM areas have already been organized on the West Coast.

In Alabama the TREE FARM System, though sponsored by the State Chamber of Commerce, is working in close harmony with the State Department of Conservation and has adopted as its standard

of good forestry the ideas which have been recommended by the Department's Forestry Division. These place emphasis upon fire protection, selective cutting, reforestation, and the dissemination of information about the program to owners of forestlands and to the public.

In the Brewton dedication, 25 persons or companies which State Forester Brooks Toler had found were already conforming to the State standards of sound forestry management, were presented with certificates by the State Chamber of Commerce and with TREE FARM signs to post on their land. The signs, two feet square, are painted in green and white and bear the name of the individual owner, as well as the words "TREE FARM" in large letters, and the name of the ALABAMA TREE FARM SYSTEM.

Some of the largest timber companies in the state were among those designated, but the majority of the list was made up of smaller individual operators. Emphasis upon the role of the small woodland owners in guaranteeing a perpetual basis for the forests in America is, in fact, one of the principal objectives of the TREE FARM SYSTEM in Alabama, and was a principal topic in an address at Brewton by Earl McGowin, President of the Southern Pine Association, and one of the owners of the W. T. Smith Lumber Company of Chapman.

"It is not enough for the owners and operators of large forests to take the lead in good forestry practices," Mr. McGowin said. "To make a conservation program effective, it is necessary for owners of small woodlands to be just as progressive as the larger owners." At the same time, he pointed out that, due to

the use of motor trucks in modern logging, it has become relatively easy to practice selective cutting on small tracts as well as large ones. "Large capital for the small owner isn't required for good forestry," he said.

Principal speaker was Governor Frank M. Dixon, who told the crowd of several ^{hundred} forest owners and farmers that "there is almost no limit to the benefits which perpetual forestry can bring to the people of Alabama". Pledging the cooperation of the state administration to the Chamber of Commerce forestry enterprise, the Governor warned against dangers of what he called "regimentation from outside the state". He said the American people "always have done their work best when the responsibility for doing it right has been upon the individual".

Brooks Toler, speaking on behalf of the State Forestry Division, said his unit would give a hearty cooperation because "we feel it is another step in the progressive work which is being done by individual land owners throughout the state". He asserted there are already thousands of forest owners in Alabama who are now conforming to the forestry standards recommended by his division and expressed confidence that the spread of conservation practices of recent years will continue at an increasing pace with the added impetus provided by the TREE FARM SYSTEM.

Among the nationally-known firms which received TREE FARM certificates recognizing good forestry practices in six counties of Southern Alabama were: the T. R. Miller Mill Co., of Brewton; Alger-Sullivan Lumber Co., Century, Fla.; Alabama Power Co., Birmingham; Southern Kraft Corporation, Mobile; W. T. Smith Lumber Co., Chapman; Vredenburgh Sawmill Co., Vredenburgh; Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co., Birmingham; and the Scotch Lumber Co., Fulton.