

MASSACHUSETTS JOINS AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

LAWTON TREE FARM BECOMES FIRST IN STATE AND FIRST IN NEW ENGLAND STATES

With the dedication of a 620-acre Tree Farm on the property of Robert H. Lawton, Athol, Mass., on Oct. 5, Massachusetts became the 22nd state to join the nation-wide Tree Farm movement and the first in New England.

Simple but effective outdoor ceremonies were held on the property attended by over 60 interested foresters, conservationists, and woodland owners of the state. Col. W. B. Greeley, chairman, board of trustees, AFPI, was the principal speaker and outlined the origin, growth, and purpose of Tree Farms.

Commissioner Arthur T. Lyman, Massachusetts Department of Conservation, presented the first gold seal certificate to Lawton and extended a hearty welcome to all other Massachusetts woodland owners to join in the movement and assure the Bay State of continuing to be a first in New England.

"Massachusetts uses over 500 million board feet of lumber annually," said Commissioner Lyman, "but of this amount only slightly more than 100 million feet are harvested within the state. Yet forest based industries in Massachusetts have an annual payroll of \$48 million and provide employment for 30,000 of our people.

"With these facts in mind it is readily seen that it is of the utmost importance that these industries have an adequate and reliable source of raw material close at hand. We know this can



Among those present at the first Tree Farm dedication on the property of Robert H. Lawton, Athol, Mass., were: (left to right), Commissioner Lyman, Roger H. Lawton, R. B. Parmenter, Massachusetts extension forester, Robert H. Lawton, and Richard O. Lawton. Roger and Richard are sons of Robert H. Lawton.

be done, not overnight, of course, but certainly within the predictable future, and only under scientifically sound and economically practical care of our forests as demonstrated on Lawton's Tree Farm. The dedication of this Tree Farm is an important step in that direction."

The Lawton farm has been in family ownership for nearly 200 years and it is the avowed purpose of Lawton to make his Tree Farm continue to return him and his sons the high returns that records show have been enjoyed for many years. Right now plans

are underway to cut selectively sufficient white pine and other species to rebuild a barn destroyed by fire this summer.

"This is only one of the many dividends I can collect from my Tree Farm," said Lawton.

WEST VIRGINIA ATTAINS HIGH IN LUMBER PRODUCTION

West Virginia's lumber production of 618 millions of feet b.m. for 1947 attained a level reached only three times in 20 years.

In 1929 it was 633; 1943 was 655, and 1944 was 631 millions of feet b.m.