

What is the Effect of Excessive Deforestation?

"What has been the effect of the tremendous consumption of timber upon our forests?" This question is often asked by people in various sections of the country, and often the information of the average man on the subject is not definite enough to enable him to make a clear and satisfactory answer. R. S. Kellogg, assistant forester, engaged upon statistics in the United States Forest Service, in giving a concise answer to the important question says:

"Now our annual requirements exceed forty billion feet of timber, one hundred million cross-ties, four million cords of pulp wood, besides great quantities of other forms of forest products, such as firewood, posts, poles, mine timbers, etc. The per capita consumption of lumber in the United States was 215 board feet in 1850; now it is 470 board feet.

"One forest region after another has been attacked. With the exception of Maine, the New England states are cutting mostly second or third growth timber. The box factories there take white pine saplings down to six inches in diameter. The so-called "inexhaustible" white pine forests of Michigan are gone, and millions of acres of cut-over and burned-over land have gone upon the delinquent tax list. Michigan supplied 23 per cent of the lumber production of the United States in 1880, and less than 5 per cent of it in 1907.

"The value of the lumber production in Michigan since 1849 has been 50 per cent greater than the output of gold in Cali-

fornia, and it has all taken place without a thought for the future. The cream of our hardwoods is gone, and it is becoming more and more difficult to get in sufficient quantity the high grades of oak, yellow poplar, ash, and hickory that our great manufacturing industries require. The South's once great supply of yellow pine is rapidly giving way before axe and saw, fire and tornado. Half a generation more will, in most places, see little but remnants left of the Southern forests, and in that time the Pacific coast supplies will be heavily drawn upon.

"Ours is primarily a wood-using civilization. Despite the introduction of substitutes for wood in the form of stone, cement, concrete and steel, and our consumption of timber has constantly increased from the earliest days up to the present time. The prices of forest products have risen more rapidly than those of other commodities. According to the reports of the Bureau of Labor, the quoted prices of the leading kinds of lumber on the New York market have risen twice as much in the last ten years as the average increase in all commodities. This indicates that the supply of timber is not keeping pace with the demand."

A WORLD'S RECORD.

Jacksonville has made practically a world's record in building since the beginning of the century. New buildings have gone up on every hand until a city of magnificent structures and beautiful

homes has taken the place of a regulation old-time southern town, with cheap buildings and ordinary houses. The records show that in eight years 8,242 buildings have been erected in the city proper, and it is estimated that fully one-fourth that number have been built in the immediate suburbs, outside of the city limits. This makes over 10,000 buildings at an estimated value of \$25,000,000 in eight years, a record that is undoubtedly unparalleled in any city of the size of Jacksonville in the entire country.

During the past year 819 buildings have been erected at a cost of \$2,075,500. These comprise some of the largest and finest structures in the entire South. The three highest buildings in Florida are now under course of construction.—Southern Building Record (Nashville.)

LOUISIANA WORK IN WOOD PRESERVATION HAS GOOD RESULTS.

A cooperative agreement between the Forest Service and the North Louisiana Telephone Company for the investigation of economic methods for the preservation from decay of loblolly pine telephone poles has recently been carried out with gratifying results. The object of the government was to demonstrate that a creosote treatment could be applied successfully and at a low cost to loblolly pine poles. Such success was obtained that a company has been incorporated under the name of the Louisiana Creosoting Company, which will operate commercially the plant designed by the Forest Service. Operation since the latter part of October last is of the "non-pressure," or "open-

tank" type. The installment of this style of plant costs much less than a plant of the "pressure" type, which is the ordinary type of plant for commercial purposes throughout the country. The "open-tank" system depends fundamentally upon the immersion of timber first in a hot bath of the preservative, followed by a rapid change to a cold bath. This method does away with the installment of high pressure and vacuum pumps and a treating cylinder of massive construction to withstand a high internal pressure, which are necessitated by a plant of the pressure type. It is usual, however, to install a treating cylinder of light construction where any great quantity of material is to be treated, since the cost of handling the material and loss of preservative through volatilization during the hot bath is in this way reduced to a minimum. Extensive experiments carried on by the Forest Service in recent years, have shown that the "open tank" system is admirably adapted to the treatment of certain classes of timber, and especially so as regards loblolly pine.

The plant used in the experiment with the North Louisiana Telephone Company is equipped with a horizontal treating cylinder 50 feet long and 6 feet in diameter. It was designed by the Forest Service, whose representative also supervised the construction and operated the plant for several months. During this period, 3,000 poles, 2,500 cross-arms, and 500 ties were treated, an amount sufficient to determine the most economical methods of treating these classes of material. The Forest Service therefore withdrew from the cooperation, and the plant is now being successfully operated by the owners.

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