interest in this great subject. I want to congratulate this Wisconsin Commercial Forestry Conference on the inauguration of this great movement.

COMMERCIAL FORESTRY

By Fred W. Sargent

I do not claim to be an authority upon forestry, nor upon reforestation, but I do want to say this, that, as a layman who knows none of the technique of the business, I think one of the sad things that has happened to America is the depletion of its forests with no constructive program for a perpetual scheme of reforestation. The time has arrived when business men should give serious consideration to this subject, but in doing it, there must be some solidity of method of expression if we are going to achieve real success of action and that is where the United States Chamber of Commerce becomes of value to help the people and the business men of the State of Wisconsin accomplish real business results.

Speaking about commercial forestry, I feel we have a very clear and very specific duty in various ways, ways not only in the interest of present prosperity, but likewise in the interest of generations that are yet unborn. You might believe that I had some selfish interest in the subject—and possibly I have—but these interests, put together in the mass, are the things that make America; they are the things that make commerce, that make business and the things that make commerce in America are the things that are making for real progresses, even in science, art, literature, in the more beautiful things in life. Without commerce the other things all would fail.

So we emphasize the word "commerce" in forestry. We believe in forestry, not only for the purpose of protecting forests, but believe in the consistent and intelligent use of the forests for the welfare and profit of mankind. We believe that government was constituted in America for two fundamental purposes: one was to protect human life; and the other, so far as possible, to insure human liberty. When the government has discharged those functions it ought to be through. We believe when it is through, it should leave, as it has largely left up to the present time, to individual incentive and individual initiative, building of commerce and building of America, because without the encouragement commerce would
fail and fall by the wayside, and as it goes down all these more beautiful things in life would begin to go down with it. So we believe in commercial forestry.

There are in America today, susceptible to reforestation, as I understand it, something like 470,000,000 acres of land, that would otherwise be idle. Private companies have already started this program to the extent of covering something like 21,000,000 acres—nearly equal to the whole of the forests of France—and they are to be commended and encouraged as the pioneers of this movement. But from all sides come reports of a discouraging struggle against conditions, which can be rectified only by public co-operation, through full recognition of individual and collective public responsibility.

This undertaking that has already gone forward should have encouragement from the national government, from the State government and we should adopt a policy of taxation, in my judgment, based on the yield of the forest and not upon the stand of the growing trees. Instead of being compelled to cut these forests in order to meet interest on bond issues, they should be exempted from taxation and only required to pay taxes upon the yield and not upon the stand. When we have done that, we will have removed one of the greatest obstacles in the way of reforestation.

The United States Chamber of Commerce stands for the following program:

Adequate forest fire protection;
Taxation of growing timber upon the principle of the yield tax;
Increased federal research, facilities;
National inventory of forestry resources;
State forestry departments;
Forest management aimed to secure continuous forest production;

Reforestation of waste lands, lands not reproducing, at the head waters of the navigable streams of the federal government;
Reforestation of other waste lands by states and municipalities.

Let me tell you how programs are arrived at, if you are not members of it. They are not the conclusions of only a few men here and there, but every Chamber of Commerce throughout the entire United States that belongs to the United States Chamber of Commerce is circularized by ballot, by referenda, as we call it. Studies are made by men in every section and corner of the United States.
They are given full opportunity to vote upon these questions in language free from partiality. Then in that manner we get a concerted expression of thinking men, business men everywhere, with relation to various national problems. They are put together and out of it there comes the result of the ballot. It seems to me that is the finest and best way of solidifying the sentiment and thought of the business men of America.

I am speaking on behalf of President Pierson of the United States Chamber and of the Chamber itself, to lend a word of encouragement to this pioneer movement in the State of Wisconsin. Any assistance that the Chamber of Commerce can give will be rendered freely and having said that, may I also conclude by just saying one more thing? That is, if there is any assistance that your railroads can give, that too will be rendered most freely.

SENTIMENT ALSO

By OSCAR F. STOTZER

This Wisconsin Conference is a part of a national movement, sponsored by the United States Chamber of Commerce, to speed up action and results on reforestation and conservation from the standpoint of the commercial aspect, giving that the primary emphasis and attention. Until recently, practically all the efforts along the lines of replenishing our forests were based on sentimental arguments, appeals to sportsmen and lovers of the great out-of-doors, and on this occasion we are considering the matter from an entirely different angle.

While these other things were exceedingly helpful, yet students of this problem have evidently come to the conclusion that the matter of rebuilding our forests is a commercial proposition and that thereby men who are interested in forests commercially, have an opportunity also not only to help preserve the remaining beauties of our forest, but also to reap a financial benefit by promoting this movement.

In an article on "Wisconsin Needs Green Forests", Dean H. L. Russell of the University of Wisconsin had this to say: "Green forests, millions of acres of them, are urgently needed in Wisconsin. We need these forests today, and we are going to need them even more in the years that lie ahead. From an economic standpoint it is