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Extension Department

Ames Forestry Club

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Extension Department

In the summer of 1921 a Forestry Extension Service was organized, with Prof. I. T. Bode, then Assistant Professor, in charge. In an interview regarding the progress of his work, he gave us the following notes:

The work of the department is divided into three parts, namely:
1. Wood preservation.
2. Farm forestry service.
3. Planting.
   (a) Shelter belts and windbreaks.
   (b) Woodlots and waste areas.

Wood preservation.
The objectives of the department are:
1. To conduct at least two demonstrations in the county to show how to set up and operate a farm creosoting plant.
2. To have the co-operators keep a check on costs and increased durability so that the actual saving can be observed.
3. To get three other users of preferably native species of posts and timbers to start treating work.
4. To furnish additional information on post and timber treating work through meetings, conferences and illustrated talks.

The work is planned to do the farmers the greatest amount of good. The demonstration work is confined to the period from October to February when the farmers can best spare the time. Two days are allowed for each demonstration. An effort is made to organize the farmers so as to have community plants.

The object of the farm forestry service project is to provide forestry advice, especially in problems of woodlot management. This work can be carried on any time of year, with the exception of the months of March, April, and May when planting is carried on. Three to five days are allowed for the work. The work allows for a week of miscellaneous forestry work:
   (a) Consultations in tree work and care of woodlots, (removal of woodlot crops, regeneration of woodlots, thinnings).
   (b) Plans for shelterbelts.
   (c) Meetings on woodlots, tree planting, wood preservation and general forestry subjects.

The shelterbelt and tree planting demonstrations are ar-
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ranged to establish demonstration shelterbelts on woodlots, either as new plantings or as renewals for existing plantings or woodlots. To discuss methods of setting trees, kind of trees, spacing, etc., and to furnish tree planting information through meetings, conferences and illustrated talks. The planting is started about the end of March or the first of April and lasts until the middle of May. The work requires that the farmers organize to make the work easy and have all things ready for the expert sent by the college.

Several rather outstanding facts were brought out by this program:

1. That the forestry program is even larger than expected in Iowa.
2. That the farmers are beginning to appreciate its close relationship to the farm.
3. That the interest in planting new trees for shelterbelts and woodlots has increased with a bound and that it will make real strides forward as soon as tree planting stock can be made available for the planter at a reasonable cost.

Seminar Notes

The plan of the Department has been to so arrange the seminar programs as to have a speaker on one week and moving pictures on the next week. The speakers for the most part have been members of the student body and their talks were generally about their experiences in the practice of Forestry. The moving pictures were secured through the Department of Agriculture, and dealt chiefly with forestry topics.

To give an idea of what the men spoke upon and the diversity of subjects, mention will be made of a few of the speakers.

Poch, who is now forest assistant on the Black Hills forest, S. Dakota, spoke on the subject of fire fighting. He explained the use of the Osborne Fire Finder, a new instrument being used for the location of fires from look-outs. Poch worked on the Pagette Forest in Idaho.

The next speaker, Edward Pohle, at present in New Mexico on Timber sales work, spoke of his experience on a timber sale in New Mexico. The methods of cruising and working the areas were given in detail. This timber sale was made to a subsidiary company of the Sante Fe R. R. The scaling methods were also explained.

Palmer and Morris, two men in the grazing game, the