Charles Lathrop Pack-A Leader in Forestry

Ames Forestry Club

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Charles Lathrop Pack—a Leader in Forestry

On June 14, 1937 there died America's foremost advocate of forestry and forest education of the public—Charles Lathrop Pack.

Mr. Pack rests in a spot of his own choosing shaded by virgin white pines in the Pack Demonstration Forest on the Hudson River near Warrensburg, N. Y. Thus the president of the American Tree Association will have what he advocated for others, a living memorial. His resting place will be Nature's Cathedral, towering pines hundreds of years old; pines that were children of the forest when Jamestown and Plymouth were young.

To make the American people "forestry minded" was Pack's ambition and life work. There is no name more widely known in the homes and schools of the nation than Charles Lathrop Pack. This is because of the "primers" he made famous. "All wealth comes from the soil," he once told his friend, the late John Hays Hammond, "and this country must realize that fact and save the soil and thus perpetuate the wealth that soil produces."

His first primer was the War Garden Primer and the other was the Forestry Primer. His tree planting books, given away by thousands to mark the bicentennial of the birth of George Washington and another to mark the sesquicentennial of the formation of the Constitution, are as widely known.

Pack did not believe the United States could keep out of the World War and he knew that food would win the war.

He called upon the newspapers for help and sent them thousands of war garden lessons. The editorial response to the campaign for "food FOB the kitchen door" was one of the most remarkable demonstrations of public service the country ever saw, Pack declared in his "War Garden Victorious"
which he wrote to make a permanent record of the war garden phase of the World War.

At the conclusion of the war work Pack again turned his attention to forestry education of the public which was his chief interest all of his life. One of the first things he did was devise a plan for replanting the forest acres of Great Britain, France and Belgium, devastated by warfare and cut for war needs, and in 1920 he began contributing American tree seeds for this purpose. These seeds being successfully grown and more being needed, he in following years gave hundreds of millions of American tree seeds to these countries with additional consignments to Italy.

As a result, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Italy will be largely reforested with American trees.

DAY in and day out Pack tirelessly advocated the point that all wealth comes from the soil and that forests are the corner-stone of all industry. To awaken the thought of the American people to this, he published the Forestry Primer and began distributing it to schools, colleges, women's clubs and other organizations.

One edition of the Forestry Primer, Pack dedicated to the CCC and the last one, marking the sixtieth anniversary of the first step in forestry by the government, he dedicated to the memory of Franklin B. Hough, the nation's first forest agent in 1878.

Under Pack's direction, the American Tree Association also published the Forestry News Digest containing up to date news on forestry. This is distributed, over 50,000 copies per issue, to foresters and others interested in forestry.

BEFORE retiring from business Pack was an organizer of the Cleveland, O., Chamber of Commerce and one of its early presidents. The span of his business activities reached from a Michigan lumber town where he knew Thomas A. Edison as a "news butcher" on a train to becoming one of the leading citizens of Cleveland, O., where he organized the Cleveland Trust Co.

Charles Lathrop Pack was born at Lexington, Mich., May 7, 1857, son of George Willis and Frances (Farman) Pack.

Pack was married April 28, 1886, to Alice Gertrude, daughter of Henry R. Hatch of Cleveland, O. There are three

Educated in Brooke School, Cleveland, O., Pack went abroad to study forestry in the Black Forest of Germany. Upon his return he spent several years in explorations throughout Canada, northwest Louisiana, and Mississippi and was among the first to discover that the yellow pine forests of the South were immune from injury by forest fires.

Pack was among the first to push education as to conservation of America’s natural resources. When the first governor’s conference was called at the White House in May, 1907, Theodore Roosevelt invited him to attend as a conservation expert. Later, the President made him one of the national conservation commissioners.

With Walter Hines Page, Dr. Charles W. Eliot of Harvard University and others, he organized the National Conservation Congress and was elected president of the Congress in 1913 and reelected the following year. From 1916 to 1922, he was president of the American Forestry association and was a director of that organization for a longer period.

Among Pack’s numerous writings the best known are “The War Garden Victorious” (1919); “Memorial Trees” (1921); “Roads of Remembrance” (1921); “Trees as Good Citizens” (1922); “The School Book Forestry” (1922); “Forests and Mankind” (1929); “Thomas Hatch of Barnstable and Some of His Descendants” and “Victoria—The Half-Length Portraits and the Two Pence Queen Enthroned” (1930).

Degrees and honors were conferred upon Pack here and abroad. In 1918 Trinity College conferred the degree of LL. D., Doctor of Business Administration by Syracuse University in 1925, in 1926 Oberlin College the degree of LL. D. and Rutgers College the degree of D. S. in 1930. The Societe Nationale d’Acclimatation de France awarded him its grand medal of honor in 1919. The same year the National War Garden Commission bestowed the Great Medal upon him while the National Institute of Social Sciences gave him its Liberty Service Medal and France the decoration of La Merite Agricole.

In 1927 he established the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Trust with funds to be used for any purpose which promotes progress in forestry, the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation at Yale (1930), the Charles Lathrop Pack Forest Edu-

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cation Board (1930) and the George Willis Pack Forestry Foundation at the University of Michigan (1930). Through these and other agencies he donated demonstration forests to Syracuse, Yale, Cornell, Washington and Michigan universities, provided numerous scholarships in forestry, and endowed twelve colleges with funds for annual prizes for essays and articles on forestry.

HE WAS a life member of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society and was a member of the New Jersey Conservation Development Commission and of President Hoover’s Timber Conservation Board (1930). He was a member also of the Society of Colonial Wars, the order of Descendants of Colonial Governors, the Royal Geographic Society (fellow), the Royal Philatelic Society, the Royal Arboricultural Society of England and the Beta Theta Psi fraternity. Trustee of the Walter Hines Page Memorial School of International Relations; member of the Board of Institute of International Education; business trustee of the Tropical Research Foundation; honorary member of the Society of American Foresters; National Institute of Social Sciences; Ohio Society; American University Union in Europe; and the Royal Scottish Arboricultural Society.

Therefore, this annual is dedicated to the memory of Charles Lathrop Pack—our tireless and fearless leader in Forestry.