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Ames Forestry Club

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A Summer Camp Course For Ames Foresters

The forester's camp has come to be a regular feature in connection with the forestry courses of a number of educational institutions. Classroom instruction must be supplemented with field practice, and this can best be given in connection with a "camp" where the students are located on or near the timber where the practical work is to be done.

The camp course which makes up a portion of the forestry schedule at the Iowa State College, comprises three months' work. The course is required of all students graduating in forestry and comes regularly in the vacation period between the second and third years' work. When the student in forestry has completed his second year at Ames, he has had some good foundation work and also courses in general forestry, silviculture, lumbering, minor forest products, history of forestry, forest mensuration, and forest nursery and planting. In short, he has had efficient preparation in both technical and general educational subjects to enable him to carry on the camp work efficiently.

The first course in the summer schedule, silviculture, has been preceded by general botany, ecology, dendrology and a preliminary classroom course in silviculture. The camp course in silviculture is largely field work. The trees will be studied in view of their relation to each other and to their environment. Forest types will be considered as well as silvicultural methods of handling them.

The practical work in forest mensuration, the second of the summer courses, will consist largely in estimating timber, mapping, and in constructing volume and yield tables. The students will be given work which will acquaint them with the use of the various forest instruments, and which will be taken up in connection with the logging operations.

The third camp subject, lumbering, will consist of a detailed study of a large logging and milling operation. In this course the work will be followed from the time the trees are cut in the woods until the finished product is shipped. The camp will be
located so as to be easily accessible to logging and milling operations, and special emphasis will be put on the location and construction of logging roads for both steam and animal hauling. The students will present a report covering the field work in the course in lumbering.

The last course included under the summer camp schedule is "minor industries". In this course it is planned to study first hand, so far as opportunity permits, the manufacture of paper from wood pulp; the destructive distillation of woods; the manufacture of cooperage stock, veneer, excelsior, wagon and buggy stock, boxes, etc.

The camp work will not be limited absolutely to the above courses, but every opportunity will be taken to arrange for additional work by specialists in various phases of forestry, especially in connection with the administration and management of federal or state forest lands.

The camp will be movable, in order that a different location may be selected from year to year if desirable.

The Forestry Department furnishes tents, cots, chairs and the other necessary camp equipment and the students will furnish their own bedding and personal effects. A small fee is charged to the students to cover up-keep on the equipment that the college furnishes. Proper facilities are provided for reading and lecture purposes.

The students will provide for board on a cooperative basis. The cost per week, including cook and helpers, should not exceed $3.50. Other necessary camp expenses will be very light and the entire cost for the three months' camp should not exceed $90.

The lectures and field studies will occupy five and one-half days of the week, Saturday afternoon and Sunday being at the disposal of the students for recreation, special trips, or for other purposes. The outdoor life and numerous field trips take away largely the classroom atmosphere, and the camp will prove to be a vacation as well as a profitable summer to the students.

After the summer camp course is completed, two additional years at Ames complete the required work for the Degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry, and three years for the Degree of Master of Forestry. The work for the Master's Degree includes research investigations along one of these four lines:
Forest Management, Forest Products, Lumbering and Forest Protection.

The equipment of the Forestry Department at Ames is the best. The class rooms, laboratories, museum, seminar room, library and offices are located in the new agricultural building. A forest tract adjoining the campus and belonging to the Department furnishes ample space for demonstration and practice purposes. The campus, arboretum and native woods afford about 150 different species of trees for study. The Department maintains a forest nursery where the students get practice in making seed beds, transplanting trees and forming plantations.

The Department is equipped with one of the best collections of woods in the country. This includes about 1,500 specimens from the United States, Argentine Republic, Nicaragua, Japan and the Philippine Islands. The collection is of great value in the course on wood study.

It is the purpose of the Forestry Department of the Iowa State College to give the student the best possible foundation for professional work in forestry, not forgetting the fact, however, that, in addition to this, he must be equipped with a good solid general education in order to prove of greatest efficiency in his professional work.

During the past ten years there has been a steadily increasing demand for men with a training in forestry. The Government, in the past, has been the principal employer of graduates from the forest schools, but many foresters have been demanded by State Departments, lumber companies and railroads, especially in the last few years. The demand for foresters should increase as the diversified industries, related in one way or another to forestry, open up new fields of investigation and employment for technical men.

Because of the close relation which forestry holds with a number of the industries, the work of the forester may be greatly diversified. He may take up lines of investigation with a manufacturer using the products of the forest; he may be called upon to do scientific work in connection with an experiment station; he may turn towards teaching; or he may take up administrative or technical duties in connection with federal or state forests.

The beginning forester is generally so situated that a large
Where class room instruction is supplemented by field practice in the native timber lands.
portion of his time is spent out of doors for the first few years. Later, as a rule, his duties carry him both to the office and field. The profession is inspiring to the man who "takes to the work", and the field offers good opportunities to the prospective forester.