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FORESTY IN THE SOUTHEAST

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No section of the nation has made greater strides economically in recent years than the Southeast—Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. In 1909 the total value of manufactures for these states was placed at $971,400,417.00. Compared to 1952 there was an increase of more than 2,000 per cent with the total value placed on all manufactures at $21,547,000,000.00 of which $3,030,000,000.00 was from forest products.

During the past two decades the pulp and paper industry, through well planned programs of continuing research, has kept this particular phase of manufacturing flourishing in this area and bids high to contribute substantially to its future growth. Since the end of World War II a majority of the forty-one pulp mills have either doubled or tripled their programs of production and four new mills are now under construction. Of the sixty-three pulpmills now drawing wood from the South, forty-five are located in the Southeast.

The pulp and paper industry today ranks sixth in value of goods produced with an annual output worth $6 billion. The annual consumption of paper and paperboard in the United States is about 31 million tons—more than 14 times as much as in 1900. While sales of some paper products are closely related to population growth and business conditions, new developments from research promise a steady increase in the per capita consumption of many others. During the past year the consumption of paper and paper products was placed at 396 pounds per person.

With the greatly accelerated programs, particularly in the field of the pulp and paper industry expansions, it is not surprising that the South reached a new high in the production of pulpwood in 1952. The total harvest was 14,534,900 cords—an increase of 3.6 per cent over 1951 and 17.1 per cent over 1950. Pine production as 2.7 per cent greater than in 1951, hardwood 16.5 per cent greater, and dead chestnut 45.7 per cent less. The total domestic pulpwood at all mills in the nation was placed at 25,045,000 cords—the South accounting for 58 per cent of the pulpwood cut nationwide.

Georgia was the largest southern producer accounting for 17 per cent of the South's harvest and 10 per cent of the nation's. The eastern seaboard states of Virginia through Alabama accounted for approximately 64 per cent of the South's production and 36 per cent of all pulpwood produced in the nation.

Progress in forestry development in the Southeast continues at a rapid pace. Less than one decade ago, not one of these states had statewide fire protection. In 1945 Virginia and South Carolina established statewide protection programs and one year later Alabama followed suit. North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida have added new acreages to their protection programs.
annually. Georgia assumed national leadership in the protection of state and private forest lands on July 1, 1953 with the establishment of 11 new County Forestry Units, which brought a record high total of 21,730,560 acres of woodland in the state under forestry protection. The 11 counties with newly organized Forestry Units comprise 1,236,744 acres. Tree planting is also being spurred. Georgia’s production is being stepped up to 100 million trees a year and the other Southeastern states are expanding their planting programs. North Carolina’s current legislature approved funds to establish a new nursery which will double their capacity to about 25 million trees annually. Industries are also establishing nurseries to replant understocked lands. A few of those industries who now operate their own nurseries are: St. Mary’s Kraft, St. Mary’s, Georgia; National Container Corporation, Jacksonville, Florida; St. Regis, Eastport, Georgia; St. Joe Paper Company, Port St. Joe, Florida; and, Union Bag and Paper Company, Savannah, Georgia. The 1952-53 planting season resulted in the planting of more than 170 million trees from state, federal and industry nurseries. An early forecast for 1953-54 is even greater.

**Importance of Woodlot**

A key factor in the overall timber supply of the Southeast is the small farm woodlot as 60 per cent of the land ownership lies in the hands of the farmer. North Carolina’s small woodlot owners furnish lumber to the small sawmills, which represent approximately 93 per cent of all the sawmills in the state and they account for 56 per cent of the lumber produced. Georgia has over 16 millions acres under small ownerships, North Carolina 12 million acres, and Virginia 10 million acres. Since such large numbers of owners control a major portion of the forest land, it has become increasingly important to assist not only the small farmer owning woodlots but also the absentee owner—doctors, lawyers, and businessmen—if the needs of industry are to be met today and tomorrow.

The wood-using industries have accepted the challenge and are doing their part to further aid and advise the small woodland owner in the proper management of his property. Approximately 100 conservation foresters are employed on a full-time basis by the pulp and paper industry from Virginia to Texas for this purpose. Foresters are now being employed by the sawmill industry to do similar conservation work. The Southern Pulpwood Conservation Association and the Southern Pine Association are making real contributions toward forestry betterment in their work with the owners of small farm woodlots. The American Forest Products Industries, Inc., who sponsor the Keep Green Campaigns and Cash Crops Program, point out the importance of trees to the individual woodlot owners’ economic well-being from the profit incentive of growing tree crops. The Southern Pine Association’s Tree Farm Program, in cooperation with the state and extension services and state forestry associations, recognizes the application of good forestry measures by the farmer to his woodlands.

The Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company stresses the importance of forestry to the economy of each state served by its line. “Because of forestry depletion in the North the possibility of the pulp and paper industry moving to the South is growing stronger.” Writing in the *Manufacturers Record*, January, 1931 issue, on “Paper Manufacturing in the South,” Warren T. White, Assistant Vice President, concluded that “very recent developments in construction of new mills and expansion of existing facilities indicate that growth of the paper industry in the South will assume greater proportions in the near future than it has in the past.” His success in locating many of the South’s larger mills on the Seaboard Railroad impelled him to sell his management on employing a forester to further aid the railroad in forestry development region-wide. The Seaboard established a forestry division within the industrial department and became the first railroad in the nation to enter the forestry development field.

In 1937 A. E. Wackerman, a forester with the Southern Pine Association, was employed as the Seaboard Railroad’s first industrial forester. When he returned to the field of education as Professor of Forest Utilization at Duke University, the railroad retained his services as consulting forester. Charles A. Gillett, former state forester of Arkansas was named to succeed Wackerman in 1938 and remained in the employ of the Seaboard as industrial forester until 1944 when he resigned to join the American Forest Products Industries, Inc., in Washington, D. C. The writer succeeded Mr. Gillett in 1945.

The Seaboard set up the FIRST farm youth forestry program on a regional basis which recognized achievement by the individual farm boy on his own woodlot. In working out the overall plans with agri-
cultural education departments in the Southeast, conferences were held on a state, district, and local basis to back forestry in practical education. By working through the state supervisors of vocational agriculture, more than 70,000 Southeastern farm boys are reached annually. Today these Future Farmers are integrating forestry into their total farming program. Some of the young farmers are carrying on forestry as an enterprise and others take forestry as a supplemental project. Many school forests have been established to serve as laboratories for training farm boys to do a better job on their home farm woodlots. The actual success of the program can be measured annually through the tangible accomplishments in gum farming, pruning, thinning, fire-line plowing, selective cutting, and planting. All phases of forestry are assuming greater importance each year to the economy of the Southeast. Working through the agricultural education program has also provided an effective means of working with veterans enrolled in the institutional on-the-farm training program and adult farmers in night classes—all programs coming under the direct supervision of the local agricultural teacher. Much support has been given to this program by other industry foresters as well as the state and federal foresters.

For many years the Seaboard Railroad has held forestry demonstrations to sell farmers, businessmen and local citizenry on the need for better management and protection of farm woods. An example of the results from such demonstrations is indicated by the

Bark chipping.

Robert N. Hoskins was graduated from Iowa State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry in 1939. Upon graduation he was employed as a tower-man and later became a senior forester in charge of visual education for the Missouri Conservation Commission. He resigned in December of 1941 to accept employment as extension forester with the Florida Forest and Park Service, a position he held through 1944. In 1945 he was named industrial forester for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad Company.

Hoskins holds the Honorary State Farmer Degree for contributions to the vocational agriculture program in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Alabama. He is the only forester to hold the Honorary American Farmer Degree given by the national organization of Future Farmers of America. He was named Norfolk, Virginia's, outstanding young man in 1951. He was also honored by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce after having served two years as conservation chairman. He was the recent recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for having contributed greatly in furthering forestry in the vocational agriculture program in South Carolina—the fourth award to be given to an individual in the history of the South Carolina Association of Future Farmers. He is a past director of the Florida Forest and Park Association and has held many statewide and region-wide committee assignments. He has served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Virginia's Economy as related to forestry. Currently he is serving as chairman of the Awards Committee of the American Forestry Association.

Robert Hoskins was born at Keota, Iowa in 1917 and his wife is the former Julia L. Jones, of Kankakee, Illinois. They have three daughters.

Mullins, S. C., program. More than 600 farmers attended this Seaboard forestry demonstration. Although this community had shown steady increases in the production of its pulpwood prior to this demonstration (1949—4,790 cords; 1950—6,039 cords; 1951—7,982 cords), following the Seaboard's program in January 1952 the production of pulpwood nearly doubled—13,674 cords. Management requests and demands for seedlings also showed sharp increase.

In the classification of the Seaboard Railroad's tonnage, forestry accounted for 19.89 per cent in 1952. This railroad now has in use 2,088 woodrack cars specifically designed to handle pulpwood and an additional 300 woodracks now under construction to augment its woodrack fleet.

Since the Seaboard initiated forestry into railroad circles, many other railroads have followed suit—not only in the South but in other parts of the nation, and their contributions to forestry development are annually strengthening America's economic security.