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THE FOREST NURSERY

By an agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the provisions of the Clarke-McNary Act the School of Forestry is now able to expand its forest nursery to meet the growing demand for forest planting material. For a number of years the School has been distributing forest trees at cost in order to encourage tree planting within the state. This policy will be continued as regards ornamental stock, but under this cooperative agreement, the School will now supply forest planting stock to establish windbreaks, shelterbelts and woodlots at about one-half the cost of growing and packing it.

The plan of growing and distributing trees at cost was conceived by Dr. C.H. Shattuck, first dean of the School, and was put into operation in the spring of 1910. Time has proved the wisdom of the undertaking. The site chosen for the nursery is a northerly slope just back of the campus and athletic field. The soil and moisture conditions are admirably adapted to forest nursery purposes. From the beginning Mr. C.L. Price has been in charge as forest nurseryman and has contributed his years, industry, and skill to the success of the enterprise.

Simultaneously with the starting of the nursery and as a background to it, an arboretum was established and now forms a most attractive forest border to the University campus. Here more than 150 tree species are being tested to determine their adaptability for planting under Idaho conditions. This arboretum is already winning fame, its success being known much beyond state lines.

That the service of the School of Forestry in growing and dis-

tributing trees is appreciated by the people is attested by the fact that the business has steadily grown from year to year since it was started. In fact the limited nursery capacity has never made it possible to meet the demand. However, trees have been distributed to every part of the state in sufficient numbers to supply many thousands of citizens mostly thus far to ornament the homes, streets, highways, school grounds, public parks, etc., though not a few shelterbelts and woodlots have been started.

But tree planting in Idaho has not received anything like the attention that its importance deserves. Public sentiment is now crystallizing in this direction, and from this on such planting may be expected to increase more rapidly.

Shelterbelt planting will increase as the usefulness of trees to protect the farmstead and growing crops from damaging winds becomes better known. With the same degree of care and skill that is given to the raising of other crops a large amount of commercial planting will prove profitable as the greater part of the timber supply, such as posts, fuel and repair material required on the farm may be grown in the home woodlot.

Plans underway to give the state more adequate service include the expansion of the nursery to several times its present capacity. It is especially desired to encourage windbreak, shelterbelt and woodlot planting in order that forestry may take its rightful place in the program of diversified agriculture. The growing of shade trees will also be put on a much larger scale in order to give the public better service in ornamental planting.