

October, 1925.

Vol. II

Issued by

No. 7

The School of Forestry, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Devoted to

The Dissemination of Information Concerning The
Forests and Forest Industries of Idaho.

THE SCHOOL OF FORESTRY

ITS SCOPE AND AIMS.

The Idaho School of Forestry was established in the summer of 1909, and is, therefore, just entering upon its seventeenth year. It was administered as a department till August, 1917, when on recommendation of the Commission of Education and the President of the University, the State Board of Education segregated forestry from the College of Letters and Science and organized it as an independent School, with a view to featuring the work as one of the foremost activities of the University, thus placing it on a par with engineering, agriculture and other independent divisions of the University.

The function of the School is twofold: To train young men for the profession of forestry, and to promote forestry in the state at large.

Student Training.

Facilities and Equipment.

For the discharge of its first obligation, that of training young men for the forestry profession, the School has exceptional advantages in its location, large logging and milling operations, important wood-working industries, also extensive federal, state and private forests being near at hand. These conditions enable the School to give its students the field experience so essential to a well rounded training in forestry. They also make it possible for students to find ready employment during

their summer vacations, thus enabling them to acquire practical experience and to earn a considerable part of their university expenses. It was doubtless these conditions that a former high official of the state had in mind when in a recent letter he wrote: "In point of environment for purposes of forestry study, there is not a better place in the United States."

In addition to these advantages the School has its own forest consisting of 640 acres, situated within a half hour's auto-truck ride from the University. This tract serves as a demonstration forest and is in constant use for field laboratories. The School also maintains an arboretum and forest nursery, the two covering about eighteen acres on the University campus. These also afford excellent opportunity for field studies.

The completion of the Science Hall the past summer made it possible for the School to expand its quarters in Morrill Hall to include all the third floor and most of the fourth. The quarters now comprise five laboratories, four class-rooms, library, instrument room, stenographic room, and three offices--fifteen sizeable rooms in all. Of the five laboratories, one is devoted to wood technology and dendrology, one to silviculture and range management, one to forest mensuration and logging engineering, and two to research in forest products. These laboratories are each well equipped with special fixtures and apparatus for the particular work in hand. Both floors were remodeled,

freshly calcimined, varnished and otherwise put in first class order the past summer.

Courses Offered.

Three four-year undergraduate courses are offered, each leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Forestry. The first is known as the Course in General Forestry and is designed to prepare men primarily for federal and state work. The second is the Course in Logging Engineering and is given in response to a demand by lumbermen and timber owners for logging engineers. The third Course is entitled Range Management and prepares for an attractive field growing out of the relation of forest management to the grazing industry. Opportunity is also given to specialize in forest products and the lumber business, tho separate courses in these fields are not yet outlined. A fifth year is offered leading to the Degree of Master of Science in Forestry.

State Work at Large.

In the discharge of its second obligation: Namely, to promote forestry in the state at large, the School has constantly under way a series of investigative projects, and brief mention is here made of a few especially calculated to assist in the solution of state forest problems.

Tree Planting Studies.

These studies have been in progress since the School was established, and data are now at hand showing the forest trees best adapted for planting in every part of the state under varying conditions of soil, precipitation, elevation, etc. As an outgrowth of these studies, an important activity of the School is the growing and distributing of forest and shade trees at cost in order to encourage the planting of woodlots, shelterbelts and windbreaks. It is expected that this work, will be substantially expanded by cooperative agreement with the United

States Forest Service under the Clarke-McNary Act.

Studies at Payette Lake.

This work covering 14,000 acres of state timber land was done in cooperation with the State Board of Land Commissioners. As a result regulated cutting was adopted for the entire tract, and a plan for the development of the recreational features of the lake front was put into effect.

Studies at Heyburn Park.

These studies similar to those at Payette Lake were made in cooperation with the State Department of Public Works. The report recommended that cutting then in progress be stopped and that further sales of timber be suspended indefinitely. This recommendation was upheld by court action. The report also proposed a recreational development plan for the park, which was adopted.

Continuous Forest Production.

Extensive studies were made by members of the School Faculty in cooperation with the U. S. Forest Service to determine logging requirements in order to keep the forest lands in a state of continuous forest production. These studies had an important influence in securing for Idaho the progressive forest law recently enacted.

Growth of Pine After Logging.

Studies are under way to determine the quantity, size and quality of material which can be produced at different ages in stands of yellow and white pine left at time of logging. These studies show that such stands will produce a valuable second cut in a relatively short time.

White Pine on Old Burns.

The character of this study is similar to the pine studies just described, and has for its purpose to determine when these stands will be large enough to cut and the yields they may be expected to produce.

Woodlot Studies.

These studies had to do in particular with the growth and yield in terms of fence posts of black locust grown on irrigated lands in south Idaho, and have stimulated interest in woodlot and windbreak planting in the treeless belts.

In addition to the field projects mentioned, fundamental research in the decay of woods has been carried on in the forest products laboratory at the University, and the results have been published in a series of important bulletins and papers. These are available for distribution. An exhaustive report on the distillation of Stumpwood and Logging Waste of Yellow Pine may also be had on request.

The School has engaged in a number of activities of a general educational nature, a few of which are mentioned.

Blister Rust Control.

A member of the Forest Faculty for several seasons past has had general direction of an educational campaign for the control of white pine blister rust, working in cooperation with the lumbermen of the state, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

American Forest Week.

Since the observance of American Forest Week became a national affair, the School has each year taken leadership in putting on a general educational campaign, calling attention to the role the forests play in the every day life of the people. These campaigns have been stressed more particularly in the public schools.

State Forest Law.

The School of Forestry had a leading part in the educational campaign covering several years, which finally resulted in securing for the state the forest law already mentioned.

Miscellaneous Service.

An important service is rendered through correspondence grow-

ing out of inquiries relating to forestry matters, through timely notes and articles supplied the press of the state, and by public addresses. The forest products laboratory offers informational service covering wood and its uses. This service is available to those engaged in the logging and milling business and in the various wood using industries of the state as well as to any others interested in the forests and the products derived from them. This laboratory answers inquiries regarding the identification of woods, the properties and uses of woods, wood preservation, diagnosis of decay and stain in wood, detection of early decay and other defects in wood products, lumberyard sanitation and the diseases of trees.

The Student Body.

After all, it is recognized that it is through the work of its alumni and former students that the School renders its greatest service. The alumni body, tho not large, is growing rapidly, and its members occupy positions of responsibility throughout the west. In point of the number employed, the federal government lays first claim to the graduates. The lumber business is a close second, the demand coming largely from the timber companies. One graduate is deputy state forester for Idaho and two have been called to important positions in India. A number of former students whose courses were unavoidably interrupted before completing them are likewise well established in some phase of forestry work, and are rendering commendable service.

The Idaho School is growing rapidly both in numbers and reputation. The new year opens with a student body of one hundred and sixteen in the four and five year courses, every part of the United States and three foreign countries being represented in the enrollment.