Interesting Facts and Figures

WHAT CAN BE DONE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

A report of more than passing interest has been prepared by Mr. Hugh H. Corbin, inspector for the South Australian Forests, South Australia. Under the heading, "Parks and Forestry," Mr. Corbin touches upon subjects which are well adapted to the direct reference to matters of the very highest importance. It is only now in its second edition, as far as airmail furnishing is concerned, and furnishes a report in favor of a more vigorous and effective use of our timber resources.

According to figures submitted by Mr. Corbin, the value of timber, as determined by the Commonwealth, imported from the forests, is $57,000,000. These values are based on the sale of products with a value of $6,000,000, which is 15% of the value of all products. The average annual production is only 25% of the total value of products with a value of $6,000,000.

This value does not show any indication of an increase, but the export values do not show any indication of a decrease. In the past, the state has been able to provide timber which, although not identical with imported timber, should be able to meet the demand for similar products. The export value is 25% of the total value of products with a value of $6,000,000.

Mr. Corbin does not say so, but it is fairly known that the timber resources of the state are seriously neglected. There is no better argument in favor of a more vigorous and effective use of our timber resources than the world's timber-holding forests are decreasing in number and extent.

The main object of forestry is to secure this timber for industrial purposes. (1) To carefully develop in commercial quantities timber and other materials suitable for commercial purposes; and to (2) establish and develop the timber resources in the various States, also in the most advantageous locations. (3) To improve the timber and forest growing conditions as much as possible. In view of the costs and returns of the different methods of growing timber, the most important is: (4) To secure and use the best methods of generating income by treatment, improvement, and the best methods of operating on the land in order to secure the maximum return from the timber and forest resources.

Exhaustion of Supply

Already several species of timber are practically exhausted in some smaller and inferior varieties. Oregon pipe, which is shipped now from Victoria and Tasmania, will go out of use in about 15 years at its present rate of consumption. The demand for timber is increasing, and will become more acute, and will become an article of commerce. The general deterioration of forests, and the rapid exhaustion of the best timber at reasonable prices, is creating a demand for alternate sources of supply. It is evident that the timber in this country will pass to other countries, and the industry will be forced to invent new and better methods of production. The use of the forest is increasing, and it becomes necessary to consider the matter of afforestation, which is the best way of conserving and planting on areas where new timber can be grown on some of their best lands. The afforestation of these areas is the most rapid and modern scientific methods of forests offer a very sound investment.

Australia grows some of the finest hardwoods in the world, and there are many extensive valuable forests which must be utilized to ultimate advantage. Australia has the advantage of being in the southern hemisphere, and is able to provide timber which, although not identical with imported timber, should be able to meet the demand for similar products. The export value is 25% of the total value of products with a value of $6,000,000.

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Revenue

Planted trees come to produce revenue, and South Australia is the largest plantation and will not do without revenue for the future. It will more than justify the outlay. At present, the State Forests have a value of $25,000,000, and the amount received by the State Forests is $25,000,000, which is the surplus upon the expenditure for the year ending 1901-02. The expenditure is greater than the revenue from the sale of timber and forest products. The revenue is, however, low, but it is expected that young plantations are a little older greater revenue will be forthcoming.

Subsidy Industries

The establishment of wood burning, which is the very roughest kind, would be much too severe.

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