

# State Work for Foresters

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THE young forester contemplating state work has many positions open to him. Whether or not he achieves his goal depends primarily on his own initiative and ability.

After I graduated from Ames in 1907, I spent ten years in the Federal Forest Service on the firing line in Arizona and New Mexico. We had plenty of obstacles; forestry was new, and the citizens did not understand our work.

But in spite of opposition, foresters were in demand. Technically trained men followed their training for a few years only to be drawn into the maelstrom of newly created national forest administrative work. In those days the title of forest assistant gave way to deputy forest supervisor and other offices in the district office. Practically all the men who are now at the top entered forestry during this uncertain time.

Two years of intensive work netted me a deputy forest supervisor's job; another year of work gave me the title of forest supervisor. With the exception of a few years of farming, I have been in forestry ever since.

Those early years of forestry training have proved exceedingly useful. They presented obstacles to be overcome and problems to be worked out. I feel that they fitted me directly for my present job of assistant state forester, a position which requires a man of diversified interests and abilities. My technical training, experience as forest supervisor, lumberman, county agent, and dirt farmer all fitted me to carry on the activities of state forester.

Since state forestry is a service institution, the state forester must have the ability to meet all kinds of people.

A student of forestry generally shapes his future course during his junior year in college. Twenty-five or thirty years ago we foresters received a smattering of many subjects. Today courses of forestry are more specialized. These courses educate men to fill positions of responsibility in our forests.

Forestry in its various activities has gained a prominent position in national life. The Federal government, states, and private industrial concerns need foresters. Conditions call for the rejuvenation of our timbered areas.

In the South millions of acres of timberland have been cut

over, farmed a few years, and abandoned as unfit for agricultural use. Farm woodlands and commercial timberlands have been cut over and burned. The value of their annual increment does not often meet the tax imposed.

Texas has over 15,000,000 acres of woodlands and over 13,000,000 acres of commercial timberlands, of which 3,000,000 acres are privately owned by farmers. State forestry in Texas, therefore, involves several lines of endeavor.

Forest protection is the largest of these, and now forest and grass fires are controlled on over 8,000,000 acres of land in the commercial region. Forest management is another important phase of work carried on by the State: State forests, nurseries, cooperative work with timber owners, and farm forestry practices are all carried on under this one branch.

There are now 173 persons employed in the Texas Forest Service, and from Director of State Forests down through the Chiefs of Protection and Management to the Farm Forester the set-up closely resembles that in many other states.

It is these men in the important offices throughout the country who have built the foundation upon which forestry stands. They are the pioneers in the field to whom we owe our debt of gratitude. From their successes and mistakes has emerged present day forestry.

