

b. Former Treatment. About 28,000 acres were cut over between 15 and 20 years ago by a sawmill company which did not take trees much smaller than 8 inches on the stump, and over a great many acres this resulted in leaving as many as 7 or 8 mature longleaf pine trees to the acre. Where the logging was in the loblolly flats along streams, there was also left a large amount of half grown timber. The company has enough virgin longleaf timber to run the mill in the neighborhood of 15 years, and has also bought up a good many tracts which have grown up to shortleaf and loblolly pine since the Civil War. Until the principles of forestry were applied to this land, woods fires were common in the longleaf region and in dry years even burned in the wetter lands and hardwood bottoms.

c. How Forestry came to be Applied. On the first of January, 1913, 28,000 acres of cut-over pine land were placed under contract with the Louisiana Department of Conservation for reforestation. Mr. Hardtner had become interested in forestry some years before, and in 1909 an examiner from the U. S. Forest Service made a careful report and recommendations as to the best means of practicing forestry on the tract. Sec. 13 of Act 261 of the Louisiana Legislature of 1910, provided that any land not assessed at more than \$5 per acre might be placed under contract with the Department of Conservation for reforestation purposes for a period of 30 or 40 years, and the taxes would thereupon be reduced to a basis of an assessed value of \$1 per acre. The owners of the tract in question took advantage of this law, which enables them to practice forestry without being overwhelmed by the accumulation of taxes on land held for a period long enough to produce second-growth lumber. All that is required of the owner under the reforestation contract is that forest fires be controlled so that natural reforestation may take place. Owing to the abundance of trees left in the earlier logging, there is a plentiful supply of pine seed almost every year, and if fires are kept out while the pines are young, a new forest springs up almost immediately.

The remainder of the tract is being protected as far as possible against fire, but the same care is not taken with it as with the 28,000 acres under contract with the State.

d. Fire Protection. One man is on duty all the year round protecting the area under State contract against fires, and, under the terms of the contract, the Louisiana Department of Conservation pays part of his salary. In the very dry weather additional men are employed to watch for fires. The Iron Mountain Railroad, which runs through the middle of the tract, is required to comply strictly with the State law compelling railroads to keep their right of way clear of grass and inflammable matter. The State Department of Conservation employs Conservation Agents as fire patrolmen in the neighborhood of the land in dry weather.