

March 11, 1920.

S
Forest Extension

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Mr. Henry E. Hardtner,
Urania, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Hardtner:

When I was in New Orleans at the forestry meeting, I met a Miss Carolina C. Dormon of Campti, Louisiana, and have since had some correspondence with her. She has a very laudable plan to secure a State forest which will include a certain amount of virgin timber which would be held for all time as an illustration of the original forests and for the enjoyment of visitors.

I have myself always encouraged every movement of this kind. This would appear to be primarily a matter of establishing a State forest. It is possible of course that later on the Federal government may be granted sufficient authority and appropriate sufficient funds to establish a National Forest in Louisiana. I do not, however, see any immediate prospect of such action, and in any case this would not act as a substitute for what the State itself should do. Whatever the Government will do in acquiring Federal forests by purchase in the different States will naturally be coordinated with what the States do and be carried out with the special sanction of the States. In the meantime I should like to see the States go forward just as fast as possible in acquiring lands to be made into State forests. Would it not be possible to secure certain areas of virgin forest, not necessarily very large in extent, which could constitute the nucleus of a State forest, and then after the surrounding lands have been cut off there could be built up by purchase of outover lands a solid forest preserve.

Naturally I suggested to Miss Dormon that she consult you about this whole matter, as you could advise her as to the feasibility of such a plan from the standpoint of the State purchase and also from the standpoint of creating sufficient public sentiment behind the movement to carry it through. I