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The leaving of seed trees on cutover Pine lands is the first step in solving these problems. Without seed trees there can be no natural reforestation of pine.

Should the State spend large sums in the future to purchase and plant denuded cutover pine lands when it can prevent this denudation by requiring pine seed trees to be left for natural restocking? Can land owners expect the State to relieve them of the burden of cutover land holdings if they refuse to provide for this restocking by leaving pine seed trees?

Cutover pine lands on which seed trees are left are worth twice what they would be without these trees, for they will be earning an income: from the growth of the seed trees, and from new crop of young timber, without diminishing their prospective value for agriculture, or interfering with grazing. Prospective farms with some timber and a woodlot are more valuable than skinned cutover lands: for pasture, because of desirable shade trees; for revenue, because of income and home use of wood; for homes, because of greater attractiveness.

But the timber operator cannot see these facts and regards the leaving of trees from which he could extract an additional one or two percent of stumpage value, as a dead loss instead of an investment which pays anywhere from ten to fifty percent annual interest.

There is more merchantable timber left in the woods in high stump, big tops and wasted in unskillful log cutting than would equal the volume contained in the seed trees required to stock every acre of cutover land. Better methods in the woods would enable the operator to secure a larger cut than at present and still leave seed trees. The result of a continuance of forest denudation, especially in Longleaf pine lands, will be an appalling public calamity. The State should act at once to require the leaving of seed trees on cutover pine lands. The State Conservation Commission should be given the power to enforce the provisions of such a law to protect the future welfare of the people of Louisiana.