



By implementing hog and fire protection, the Great Southern Lumber Company was able to encourage young natural regeneration (in this case Slash pine) in cutover areas (1925).

provided by the fact that he was purchasing additional cutover lands as early as 1904 and 1905. Hardtner's program was not based on romanticism; he believed that there was a sound economic basis for his reforestation efforts. He also was instrumental in the establishment of the Louisiana Forestry Commission, and his timberlands became the sites for annual summer camps and experimentation by the Yale University School of Forestry. Hardtner did a great deal to provide the informational foundations on which others would later build.¹³

One of the first products of Hardtner's influence occurred in May 1920. He invited officials of the Great Southern Lumber Company of Bogalusa, Louisiana, to visit Urania to get a firsthand look at what he was doing. Colonel W. L. Sullivan, general manager of the Great Southern, had already traveled to Norway and been influenced by the forest management he saw there. He was obviously impressed by what he observed in Urania as well, for on the trip back to Bogalusa he announced to members of the New Orleans press that his company was planning to implement a comprehensive reforestation and conservation program. Whether it was the Norwegian experience or the trip to Urania or both that made the difference is a matter for speculation. In any case, [Austin] Cary was brought in for consultation.¹⁴

Cary was a forester, and he came South in 1917 as a logging engineer for the U.S. Forest Service. Cary was struck by the backwardness of southern forest practices, and he hoped to promote sound forestry among the South's large and small landowners. He tirelessly toured southern lumber operations and convinced the lumbermen to experiment on small plots to prove the efficacy

of improved forest practices. Cap Eldredge remembered that Cary "did a tremendously fine job in getting interest started. He didn't convince anybody to the extent that the day after he left they went out and did something, but he was a persistent old New England Yankee and he'd come back talking all the time. They liked him and enjoyed him. . . . He generated a lot of interest that grew little by little and men commenced to do something . . . but the thing that made it all blossom was that the price of land and timber went up under the impact of the pulp development. Then it became economically possible and profitable to hold land for successive crops of timber."¹⁵

Elwood L. Demmon recalled that Cary "could do better than almost anybody in interesting lumbermen in forestry. He really had a knack for taking businessmen out into the woods and showing them how trees grew and instilling in them the fundamentals of forestry. He always carried an axe with him and did not hesitate to cut down a tree just to illustrate its growth rate by counting the annual rings. Observations such as this made a deep impression on many of these old-time lumbermen, and they had great respect for old Dr. Cary." Demmon concluded,

"I would say that of all the foresters who have worked in the South, he probably had more influence with the lumbermen, selling them forestry, than any other technical forester. Dr. Cary was a technical forester, and he was also a very practical man and knew how to speak the language of the lumberman. . . . Dr. Cary did a lot of good in getting forestry started in the South. . . . He would barge right in to a lumberman's office. He wouldn't spend