

us. It is estimated that the timber supply of our country at the present rate of cutting cannot last longer than twenty years, and yet little has been done to avert the calamities which must follow, and which we already have to contend with. Experience is usually the best teacher, and we may in a measure avoid the disasters and perils through which other countries have passed by adopting similar measures for our protection. There is no reason why we should suffer as other nations have; from their experience we should derive wisdom and act accordingly.

While our forests have already been badly damaged, we still possess sufficient forest land to grow timber enough to meet all our needs. Our forests are one of our renewable resources, and, when rightly handled, go on producing crop after crop indefinitely, yielding safe returns on the investment. The countries of Europe and Japan know this, and their forests are daily growing more and more productive.

The countries which to-day manage their forests on sound principles have passed through four stages of forest experience. At first the forests were so abundant as to be in the way, and were neglected or destroyed. Next, as settlements sprang up and the forests receded farther and farther from the places where wood was needed, the question of local wood supplies had to be met, and the forests were protected. Third, the increasing need for wood led to the recognition of the forest as a crop like agricultural crops, which had to be planted, cared for and harvested. Finally, in order to benefit the general welfare, forests were safe-guarded and controlled so as to yield a crop year after year, and from one generation to another.

So, our country, having had the experience of other nations upon which to

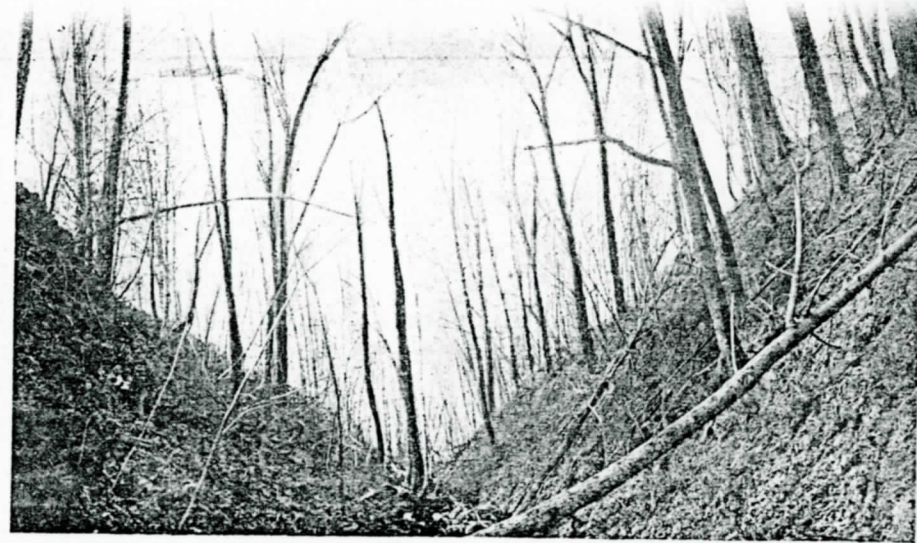
we may find it necessary to inaugurate some new methods. However, the general principles of forestry are the same the world over.<sup>1</sup>

In this country the forests are already on the ground. All that is necessary is to bring them to a full state of productiveness. It does not take a wise man, a senator, a president, or a member of Parliament to tell you that a crisis is at hand. Go to the forests of the South, and the employees of the lumber companies will tell you that timber supplies will not last over twenty years. The surveyors, mill owners, timbermen, and speculators will tell you the same stories. Already the employees of sawmills are saving their earnings and buying a few acres of land, looking forward to the time when sawmilling will be a thing of the past, and they must provide for a home. Go to these people who are nearest nature, and they will tell you how rapidly our forests are being exhausted, and how they dread to think of the calamities of the future.

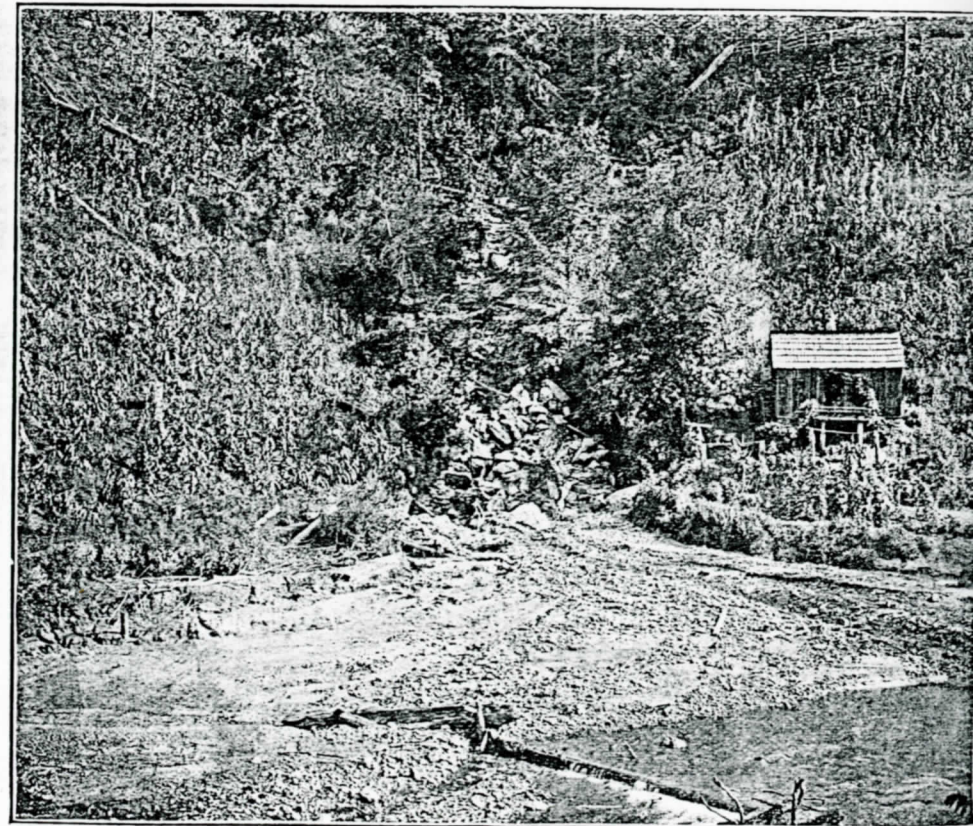
#### LOUISIANA OUTPUT GREATEST

Louisiana is to-day producing more lumber than any state of the Union, except Washington, and will continue to do so for many years to come, and why not for centuries? Our forests of pine, gum, cypress, oak, hickory, and other hardwoods are the most magnificent of any in the world, and it seems as if nature designed these to be protective forests owing to the fact that mighty rivers flow through our state to the Gulf, which is our southern boundary line. Forests were intended to protect us from soil erosion, cyclones, climatic changes, and hurricanes. Shall we destroy the protection that nature has given us? We are doing it, and so rapidly that inside of twenty years Louisiana will be the poorest state in the

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Hardtner gave a brief review at this point of the forestry methods and results of Germany, France, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, China, Japan, and England, showing in this connection the influence of denudation in causing floods and erosion.



View of Ravine Showing Work of Trees in Holding Soil from Washing (page 24)



Newly Cleared Mountain Field Planted in Corn, Rapidly Washing Away (page 24)