



Excessive Erosion on Nearly Level Land, Yazoo Uplands. Gullies With Vertical Walls Eat into Cultivated Land With Remarkable Rapidity, and This May Be Prevented Only by Reforestation (page 24)

Union, unless measures are adopted to prevent these calamities.

Go to the forests of La Salle, Catahoula, Jackson, Winn, Grant, Rapides, Vernon, Sabine, Calcasieu, Bienville, Caldwell, Livingston, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Washington parishes, where the pine forests flourished in imperial magnificence, and watch the "up-to-date" method of butchery. Virgin forests which produce from ten to twenty-five thousand feet of timber per acre are being absolutely denuded just as completely as you would strip a bird of its feathers or the beast of the field of the covering which nature provided.

Hardly a dozen saplings, the size of one's arm, to the acre are left standing, and these lands are practically deserts, a waste where soil-erosion takes place, where rains fall and the water rushes off in torrents, flooding the streams and valleys, leaving a sterile soil on the rich bottom lands, where the wind has a

clean sweep and acquires such a velocity as to scatter destruction to the towns, cities, and villages—a land reduced to poverty, which even the state could refuse to take for its taxes so far as its future usefulness is concerned. Any man who loves nature would shed tears every time he passes through our forests and sees the criminal waste that is going on.

Hardened as I am to these sights, I feel sad and depressed when I see this slaughter. What has the state done? Fought year after year to collect a pitiful taxation from these forests, sometimes reasonable and again exorbitant. No system whatever, no thought of to-morrow, no idea of the worthlessness of denuded forests to any one, and no thought of dire calamities which are now upon us. What has the lumberman done? Proceeded to cut up these forests just as fast as he can, not leaving even seed to reforest his lands; running his mills night and day; pro-



Forestry in Japan: A Well-kept Forest of Timber Bamboo on Good Soil, Showing Thick Mulch of Straw and Leaves, and Open Drainage Ditch in Foreground (page 24)

ducing more lumber than the country needs, operating without profit, and leaving a desperate country behind him. Is it not time for the state of Louisiana to act? Or must we wait until we are reduced to suffering and then spend millions of dollars for measures of protection, which, if adopted now, would

solve the problem and yield to the state millions of dollars in profits?

The lumberman really has no desire to criminally destroy his forests, and I am sure that if the state would meet him half way, settle the question of taxation, and assist in the perpetuation of forests which is a benefit to all our