



FIG. 3. A pyramidal company house at Woodworth, Rapides Parish. This and the other dwellings illustrated in this paper are original company-built houses and are still occupied. When the mills "cut out," the houses were dismantled or sold at extremely low prices. Many were bought and moved to new locations.

ties of pine and cypress were rafted down to the mills on the spring rises of the Sabine and Calcasieu.

In spite of early exploitation the pine forests of the Calcasieu district stood almost untouched in 1890. Longleaf covered more than 2,500,000 acres at the end of 1892, although in that year alone the mills around Lake Charles cut some 150,000,000 board feet.⁷ The doom of these forests was foretold in 1884, when Sargent reported that:

The country between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains, now largely supplied with lumber from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, must for building materials soon depend upon the more remote pine forests of the Gulf region or

those of the Pacific coast. A great development in the now unimportant lumber-manufacturing interests in these regions may therefore be expected.

The most valuable forests of the state [Louisiana] are still almost intact. . . . Pine has also been cut along the Sabine River, from both forks of the Calcasieu, along the Red River in the neighborhood of Alexandria and Shreveport. . . .⁸

As northern forests dwindled railroads were built into west Louisiana pineries and made possible, after 1895, forest exploitation on a

⁷ C. Mohr, *The Timber Pines of the Southern United States* (Washington: U. S. Department of Agriculture, 1897), p. 45.

⁸ C. S. Sargent, *Report on the Forests of North America, Except of Mexico* (Washington: U. S. Department of the Interior, 1884), pp. 489 and 536. According to Sargent: "The principal point of manufacture is Saint [sic] Charles, in Calcasieu parish, on the southern border of the western pine forest. Lumber manufactured here is shipped east and west by rail, and in small schooners to Mexican and West Indian ports."