

west of Cogdell. In spite of a prompt attack by the usual crew of 10 to 15 men, and under the influence of a 35-mile wind and a relative humidity of approximately 20, the fire traveled a distance of 7 miles in the first 3 hours of its run. Burning in a 10 to 12-year rough, it became a raging crown fire in ponds and areas of dense reproduction, and spotted flaming sparks as far as one-half mile ahead of the front, so that an attack other than a flank method to drive the head fire into wet areas and old fields became impossible. The crews of 3 C.C.C. camps and every available local man (a total of 500 men) were called into service, and, during the night, succeeded in stopping the head fire. The next morning several spots along its perimeter broke out afresh but never became serious, and a light rain Saturday night followed by several days of wet weather, removed danger of further loss.

"The total area burned was 17,186 acres, of which 12 to 14 thousand were located in the Sessoms Securities area. One casualty was reported—a negro member of the first crew, attempting flight through very dense growth of a pond, was burned to death. Two of the Southern Forest Experiment Station's thinning plots established 4 years ago were destroyed.

The Station and other foresters in the South are actively studying the use of controlled burning and other means of reducing these heavy periodic losses."

If we various forestry agencies and foresters permit this complete devastation to continue after reforestation is perfect, then we alone are responsible for the crime.

"A SUCCESSFUL BURN"

On January 17, 1935, I was driving with Mr. Tannehill of Urania Lumber Company, along the highway one mile north of Urania. I remarked this is a

good time, 5:30 P.M., to burn 80 acres, "stop the car, set fire to these woods." He said he had no matches, so I gave him some and he set fire to the litter in several places, very much against his will. We went on our way but returned to the spot at 7:30 P.M. and witnessed all kinds of beautiful fire works. Representatives of C.C.C. Camps, U. S. Forest Service and state forest service as well as many citizens had gathered around to witness the unannounced experiment. While the fire was burning we could see that no damage was being done, not even the pine needles browned except in occasional spots. The next morning a thorough examination of the burned area was made and no damage found, not even a retardation of growth. It did not cost one cent to burn this 80 acres.

It may be necessary to again burn this area five or ten years hence, but after that it will be a fire proof forest. This was a mixed forest of longleaf, shortleaf and loblolly pines.

"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"

My observation of forests began in early youth, but my actual forestry work commenced in 1908 when Governor Sanders appointed me to the office of Chairman of the Louisiana Conservation Commission which carried no salary. I had not been a political friend of Governor Sanders and this recognition caused me to work much harder to achieve success than if the appointment had come from a partisan friend. I immediately made many trips to forestry regions and attended forestry conventions in order to acquire some knowledge of the subject. I found little on which to base a foundation for forestry and decided that there was no royal road to forestry and that I must blaze my own trail.

In June, 1909, I asked the U. S. Forest Service to send an expert or technical