

forester to confer with me at Urania, La., and to inspect and make a report on my holdings of about 30,000 acres of then cutover lands. In May, 1910, Mr. J. H. Foster was sent by the U. S. Forest Service to Louisiana to make a general report on forestry and spent some time at Urania. Later Mattoon, Dana, Cary, Forbes, Hine, Canterbury, Demmon and other technical foresters came to study forest conditions and to lend their assistance and encouragement, as representatives of the U. S. Forest Service. We were also honored with visits from Messrs. Graves, Greeley, Stuart, Schenck, and others of their associates in counsel. I was one of the organizers of the National Conservation Congress, the Louisiana Forestry Association, Southern Forestry Congress and other organizations of a like nature. Attendance at the meetings of these associations always gave me great pleasure and was the source of much information. I served also as a member of the Forestry Advisory Board of the Louisiana Department of Conservation, and Chairman of Advisory Council Southern U. S. Forest Experimental Station. At present I am chairman of the Forestry Committee of the Southern Pine Association. In the meantime I have been Federal Food Commissioner in charge of Conservation, Representative, Senator and member of the Constitutional Convention (1921) of Louisiana, and assisted in shaping all forestry laws since 1908. Prof. Chapman and Bryant for many years past have brought their senior forestry class to Urania to complete their course and this close contact with teacher and student has been of inestimable value. Thus, for over twenty-five years I have constantly observed and studied forestry and forest conditions. I mention these facts simply to show my long association with noted foresters, and that I feel competent to discuss the problems pertaining to practical forestry.

In 1910 our cutover lands were barren

except for seed trees which were left because of defects or sizes under 12 inches. Fires were a natural and expected occurrence annually so that there was scant reproduction of any kind and the woods were open. In 1913 we put on a system of fire protection which was mostly educational and in the hands of local citizens of prominence in their communities. This system in time enrolled all of the workers and their families who were in the employ of the Urania Lumber Company. Cooperation with the people was fairly successful and the seed crop which fell in the fall of 1913 was not destroyed by fire as previously. By May, 1914, seedlings could be found in the grass everywhere. The "fire season" was over and we could rest secure from our labors until the next "fire season." The new forest was in the making. Our idea of the danger from fire at that date was from October first to March first for the heavy grasses mostly sedge were then dry and a fire would destroy the young seedlings. From March 1st to October 1st the grass was green and the fire hazard light. At the same time the people were not given to setting out fires except in the winter season. The seedlings grew rapidly as also the grass for the first five or ten years—briars and bushes also came in. The fire hazard was great all during the time and many were the discouragements we faced. Finally as the trees gained size and density the grass began to give way and almost disappeared due to shade and heavy accumulation of pine straw. The fire season or fire hazard was now for the twelve months of the year and the season most dreaded, when fires were very destructive, was from May 1st to October 1st. Thus we faced a changed condition—a complete reversal of our former plans.

However, during all these years, we had carried on hundreds of forestry experiments—had carefully selected hun-