

Now if fire had not destroyed these young longleaf pine seedlings what had prevented reforestation of our cut over longleaf pine lands?

One day as I was walking through the forest with Forester W. H. Thompson, I noticed a gentleman hog busy at his usual job of rooting. I decided to investigate and found that he had pulled up a pine root six feet long and ate the tender bark, leaving only the bright white peeled root. I carried the root home and hung it in my office and resolved some day that I would write a forestry story, the title of which would be—"A Tale of a Root—A Root of a Tale—Or Root Hog or Die."

Longleaf pine seedlings have a thick spongy, sweet, juicy root, relished very much by hogs, and I found them uprooted everywhere. Fire had not prevented reforestation of longleaf pine areas, but it was plain to anyone that the hog alone was responsible. We put up miles of hog proof fence and soon had perfect stands of longleaf pine. One of our latest most perfect experiments in growing longleaf pine in a section of country cut over in 1900, and unproductive until 1932 when we fenced 1,500 acres, is in the H. H. Chapman Forest which no doubt he will give an account of later.

A DISASTROUS FIRE

SEPTEMBER 17, 1932

George W. McKaskle, who lives between Urania and Olla, discovered a fire in north end of Elk Pasture and immediately rushed to Urania to get assistance to subdue the flames. The tower man at the firetower, about one mile north also sent in the alarm and soon a large number of men were on the scene, (some 30) and put out the fire. The day was hot and dry, very little rain having fallen for several months. There was an ac-

cumulation of straw, grass, briars, and leaves on the ground for at least fifteen years past. There was also a stiff wind which fanned the flames which shot up into the air 150 feet, killing seed trees two feet in diameter and 150 feet tall. So great was the fire that it was seen for miles around and citizens of other towns thought that Urania was burning up. The newspapers carried lengthy reports of this disastrous and spectacular fire. The area of 100 acres burned is now a veritable waste—the 2,000 young trees to the acre being completely destroyed, together with the original seed trees. The damage is at least \$25.00 per acre, or \$25,000.00. This is the third or fourth fire in the same vicinity during the past year, covering nearly 200 acres, and soon we may reasonably expect complete destruction of entire area, unless protective measures other than the present fire protection system are established.

It is indeed discouraging after 32 years of labor to find these burned spots now a desert waste.

This forest of 4,000 acres was purchased by Pack, Woods and Company from the United States about the year 1885 and was logged by Smith and Adams Lumber Company of Olla, Louisiana, about 1898 to 1905 and after the lands were denuded they were sold to Urania Lumber Company, Ltd., of Urania, Louisiana, for \$1.50 per acre. There were ample seed trees left and in 1913 a system of fire prevention was established and the area fenced to keep out hogs and cattle. Soon there was a perfect stand of seedlings and saplings with prospects of growing into a valuable "man made" forest. The dangerous fire season then was from October 15 to March 15th, as the seedlings were in the grass and a fire would have destroyed them.

After ten to fifteen years the grass gave way to the accumulation of litter, straw, leaves, briars, grass and the dangerous