

fire season was shifted to March 15th to October 15th for such a heavy accumulation of litter will burn at any time. Our success in preventing and suppressing fires had been phenomenal for we have had the cooperation of our neighbors, the dwellers in the forest.

We now have in the Urania area a fully stocked stand of 70,000 acres which cannot be replaced for \$20.00 per acre or \$1,400,000. The general public have a 90 per cent interest in these values. This is a stake worth making a great effort to save. We are now at a parting of the ways for what effects the Urania Forest will also effect 4,000,000 acres in similar condition owned by others in Louisiana and millions of acres in other southern states.

I have had many conferences with Prof. H. H. Chapman of Yale University on forest protection and the various problems connected with the growing of a new forest. We have foreseen fifteen years ago just what would happen to a fully stocked stand of young timber if fires occurred and fires will occur and at a time when they will do the maximum of harm.

Forestry was young and we had just to teach the people the necessity of fire prevention if new forests were grown. The people responded to our ideas and now millions of acres of waste lands in the South have been put to work growing trees. It is now time to proclaim a truth which we have arrived at after years of close study and observation and that is the necessity of controlled, supervised burnings where necessary and at a time when little or no harm will result. We have carried on experiments in controlled burnings since 1915 when seedlings were two years old to saplings 25 years old and our records of results are complete in hundreds of cases. The Urania Forest must be saved and it is my intention to burn the hazardous areas at a time when the least harm may result to growing

trees but will consume the heavy litter on the ground that always invites a hot fire in a hot season. We will select some damp cold days in January or February at dusk or night when there is little wind and with a trained crew of men burn and destroy this heavy accumulation of litter and this method should be followed every five years or even oftener. We will also commence thinnings and by removal of seed trees and many saplings leaving a stand of 300 to 400 trees per acre, the accumulation of litter will not be great at any time and the damage resulting from a fire lessened. It must be remembered that our fully stocked lands carry from 1,000 to 5,000 trees per acre and the accumulation of litter or straw each year is immense.

I invite criticism of my plans or suggestions from the U. S. Forest Service, State Department of Conservation, Prof. H. H. Chapman, Louisiana State University, Great Southern and other companies who are practicing forestry. I am not an autocrat or conceited enough to think I know all about forestry and I will not venture until there has been a free discussion from those well informed interests. If Urania Forest must have fires, we propose to beat the other fellow to it and do our own burning at a time when little harm will result. Fire is the best of friends, but the worst of enemies. But whenever we do burn the woods, we must tell the people why and they will continue to give us their hearty coöperation.

CONFLAGRATION IN SOUTHERN GEORGIA

"On the morning of April 13, 1934, a disastrous fire, cited by the natives as the worst they had ever experienced, passed through the pure slash pine forests of the Sessoms Securities holdings at Cogdell, Ga. The fire was first sighted at 11:30 a.m. at a point about 3 miles