

of generalizing too quickly; standardization of practice seems to me a thing not to be thought of.

Most of us here are technical men though numbers have also been responsible for property. I hope trained foresters will work that way in future more extensively than they have. Meanwhile untrained men, natives of the country, are doing the job and stand in a way to reap the rewards whatever they may prove to be. Let me say that in this particular field of fire control many of them seem to me to be doing a pretty good job at it; protecting forest and growing forest.

In a word the task today seems to me to be to do the best we can with the means at command. From that standpoint two measures recently introduced among us will be of interest. Thinning young timber just in advance of burning over the ground in which it stands we have recently tried out and believe it a measure of great value. The green foliage of the felled trees seems to check and deaden the grass fire. The other measure is fire weather prediction which we are inaugurating in south Georgia and north-east Florida the first of February.

*Mr. Wackerman* (Southern Pine Association): I merely want to call attention to two southern pine lumber companies in the South who are practicing forestry and handling fire problems in an entirely different way. Both have had very good results. One burns each winter the year's logged area after first pulling the tops away from the trees left and a fine stand is left. The burning is carefully done and I never saw a finer control plan anywhere. The logging hazard is thus removed and the residual stand, which is a fine one, is unharmed.

Another company practices complete exclusion of fire and has had good success. Their problems are different. It seems to me that controlled burning is a question of what is the best policy for

each individual operation and we cannot make any hard and fast rules applying to all conditions.

*Chairman Butler*: Are there any other questions? Is Mr. H. A. Smith of South Carolina here?

*Mr. Smith* (State Forester, S. C.): I missed the first paper—there are certain conditions on certain areas which at different periods of the year should be burnt over.

We have a lot of people come into our office and ask us what the government is giving for land. I ask them what they will give me for doing it—in other words you may not get the connection the point is simply what I or any other is going to do with his land depends on that particular land and the conditions surrounding it.

*Mr. Chairman*: Mr. Baker, have you anything to say.

*Mr. Baker* (State Forester, Florida): I can say unqualifiedly that fire can be used for cultural purposes. I believe we should study the facts with an open mind and encourage the land owners to use fire wherever we think it is applicable. There are a lot of administrative difficulties in connection with this. If we advocate the use of fires a lot of people will use this information as an excuse to practice uncontrolled burning which is the big problem in the South. The man who ordinarily burns down South to improve the range thinks in terms of uncontrolled burning and the burning of the other man's property.

These people are liable to broadcast this information and claim that fire protection is not desirable, when, as I understand from the evidence submitted, fire protection is the desired thing with certain exceptions—burning before a seed crop and every three to five years thereafter. I fear that the important protection phase will be overlooked.

I would not hesitate to practice protective burning or to encourage others to