WHAT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY IS DOING FOR FORESTRY.

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To the farmers, fruit growers and gardeners of Ohio the preservation, improvement and extension of our existing forests or woodlands is a subject of signal importance. Not to speak of the effect upon our climate, the reckless destruction of our timber trees, without any effort to make good the loss, or restore the supply, is compelling those who come after us to pay many times the cost at which we might have grown them. There can be no reasonable doubt that this reckless improvidence is seriously affecting our climatic conditions.

While there is no evidence that the annual average precipitation in form of rain or snow has been materially changed, or that the distribution of the rain and snow throughout the year has been greatly modified, we do know that springs and wells are failing, that many small streams or brooklets are dry and that our larger streams and rivers are becoming more and more capricious in their flow.

We have record that floods are more common and that drouths are more frequent and more severe. If our rainfall is no less in total amount, nor no less equitable in distribution, the water does not penetrate and remain in the soil as it did before our forests were so largely removed.

What must be done to make timber more plentiful and to render our climatic conditions more favorable?

Manifestly, we should, in the first place, preserve and improve our existing woodland. We should reclothe all rugged, broken land, all rocky crests and steep hillsides; in short, every acre that is not cultivated, or is cultivated at a continual loss, with valuable forest trees. It is the duty of every public-spirited citizen to incite and encourage the planting and managing of timber trees for one or more of the following purposes: 1. Directly and specifically for timber. 2. For shelter and protection. 3. For ornamental and landscape effects. 4. For some special economic product—like syrup or sugar, honey, nuts, etc.

For timber, all ravines and hillsides, every acre too rocky or too rough to be economically cultivated, as well as many odd corners of more level and richer lands, should be devoted to our most valuable forest trees. If such lands were judiciously and bounteously wooded once more and kept so, our floods would be less injurious, our springs, wells and streams less liable to failure; our winds would be less destructive; we should have more birds to delight us with their song and aid us in our ofttimes unsuccessful warfare against destroying insects; we could grow cherries, peaches and other delicate fruits and vegetables with more certainty and receive a larger income from two-thirds of the landwe now imperfectly utilize and cultivate than we actually do from the whole of it.

Statistics of recent date show that Ohio is not keeping the proud rank she once held in the yield of many farm and orchard products, yet no state has greater possibilities of production.

But the attributes of our state are material; they touch the commercial side of life. It is of far greater import that we should be able to justly claim that ours is a commonwealth of inviting, attractive, hospitable and happy homes.

To make the homes attractive they should be embowered and the roads leading thereto belted with stately, graceful trees.

No further argument is necessary to prove the unquestioned need of instruction in forestry, and forestry is fast becoming a well recognized profession in this country.

The people of the United States own nearly 150,000,000 acres of forest lands, the so-called national forests, and the need of trained men to care for these forests gives exceptional opportunities for graduates in forestry. In fact two well defined lines of work present themselves to the well-trained forester, namely, public service and private service.

The aim and purpose of the new Department of Forestry in the Ohio State University is to teach and train young men in forestry and to promote as