

# HOW BABY PINE TREES THRIVE ON THE UTAH HILLS

A DECLARATION of President Roosevelt, made several years ago, was that "the forest problem is in many ways the most vital internal problem in the United States."

A citizen of Salt Lake who owns land in Parley's canyon asked a forest supervisor a few days ago, whether he would advise him to plant it in trees. The forest man took the citizen, took him up to the Big Cottonwood nursery, took a day off to tell him all about planting trees on mountain sides, and ended by even offering to superintend their planting if the citizen would put them on his private strip of mountain side, and possibly to furnish the trees.

The enthusiasm of the forest ranger was not without authority, for Uncle Sam has figured a profit to himself in every such action, in that there was water shed to be protected, a mountain side to be beautified, and prestige given to the new campaign for artificial raising of forests.

Utah has some wonderful new resources in their baby state. Pine trees, growing in the promise of stature to be attained in another 50 years are on hundreds of slopes that only a dozen years ago were bare.

How great is this new change coming over the face of the mountains will be apparent to anyone who goes up to see. Stumpy fields whose days were older than the longest memory, are green with a newer growth, with protecting notice nearby that a fire must not be started, without being put out, that trees must not be cut down without a permit, and that sheep can only be grazed on the mountains after consent to do so has been secured. That none of these baby trees shall suffer is the end and aim of all this restrictive legislation, and the hope of their future.

A recent trip through Spanish Fork canyon, and up on to the Strawberry headwaters convinced a party of Salt Lake of the tremendous possibilities of the new forest growth and splendid

results following the intelligent care of the mountains.

The creek, one only protected from the blazing sun by oak and birch willows, displayed occasional clumps of young spruce and fir, with a substantial three here and there forcing recognition among the willows, and attaining a height that would give attractiveness to men who live by gathering fence posts. If not for those in search of more expensive logs for the saw mill.

ON THE WATERSHED.

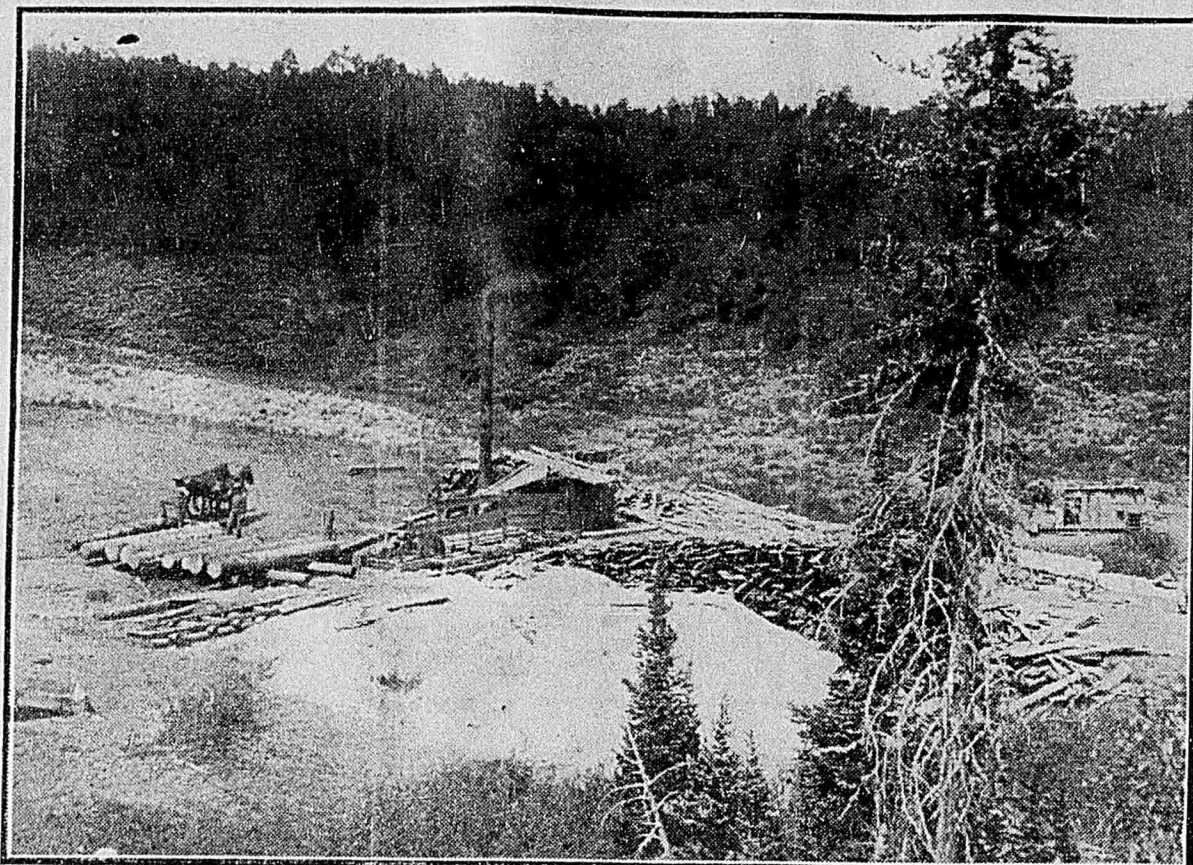
In the higher altitudes the quaking aspens humped together in the wind, available in size, all of them, and they gave a satisfaction in the thought that the whole infant forest was protected, was no longer to be ravaged, and was at work for the children of the present generation preparing for them the enjoyment of a state in which spring floods shall be held back into summer flows, and where forests on every northern slope shall make beautiful the mountains, that now are denuded and swept clean by fire and axe of all their one-time glory.

The natural questions of how long the protected forests have been accumulating these first evidences of new growth. Of how much longer it will take the young trees to attain a full maturity, and of what work may be done to still further encourage the growth of timber on slopes that have been stripped so bare that not even a seedling remains as a promise of future trees, found their answer from the various forestry men encountered in the camps, and in the executive office in Salt Lake.

NURSERY FOR THE FOREST.

High up in Big Cottonwood canyon there is a tree nursery in which "potted forests" are being carefully studied for purposes that are part of a future dream of achievement for forest reclamation in Utah. It is here that the answer rests for those who laugh at the title of "national forest" to present strips of barren hills.

"If we went ahead planting trees



A RESERVE SAW MILL.  
Each Log It Uses Must Be Branded Before Cutting, by a Forest Rider. No Unripe Timber Is Consumed in the Process, or Waste Allowed.

stration. Like the "star" reporter of the paper, he is not assigned a department nor harassed by routine, but is given a roving commission to search at will for items of interest. The forest rover is the "forester." He measures up the timber, watches the new growth, determines how much stock can safely graze upon a given tract; locates dangerous brush accumulations, and draws up the service rules.

Independent of all the rangers, save only the supervisor, the "forester" is most often a dreamer or student, to whom the wild mountain life has charms that no civic position could replace. He is of the Gifford Pinchot type, who study the forests' needs and then leaves us their accomplishments, to matter-of-fact men, and masters of routine. The roving forester who picked out Utah's many desolate stretches, and recommended them as hopeful for future forestation, is now at work in Big Cottonwood experimenting to find the best way to redeem them all to their former state.

Gov. Cutler is an enthusiast for the forests. "Every north slope in Utah," he declared last night, "should carry its quota of trees. They should be protected, and I welcome every government agent upon the land. I intend personally in a few days to visit the Cottonwood nursery, and I would like to see the city protect its watersheds by artificial planting. The trees fix the soil, prevent floods and washouts, and add infinitely to the use of the mountains for recreation and as elements of beauty in the commonwealth."

## GHOST ANSWERS 'PHONE.

Old St. Paul's Church, headquarters of the Protestant Episcopal city mission, has a ghost. It is an eccentric shade which whisks up stairways and disappears into nothingness, but it also is up-to-date. When the office force has departed and the quaint old building on Third street is secure

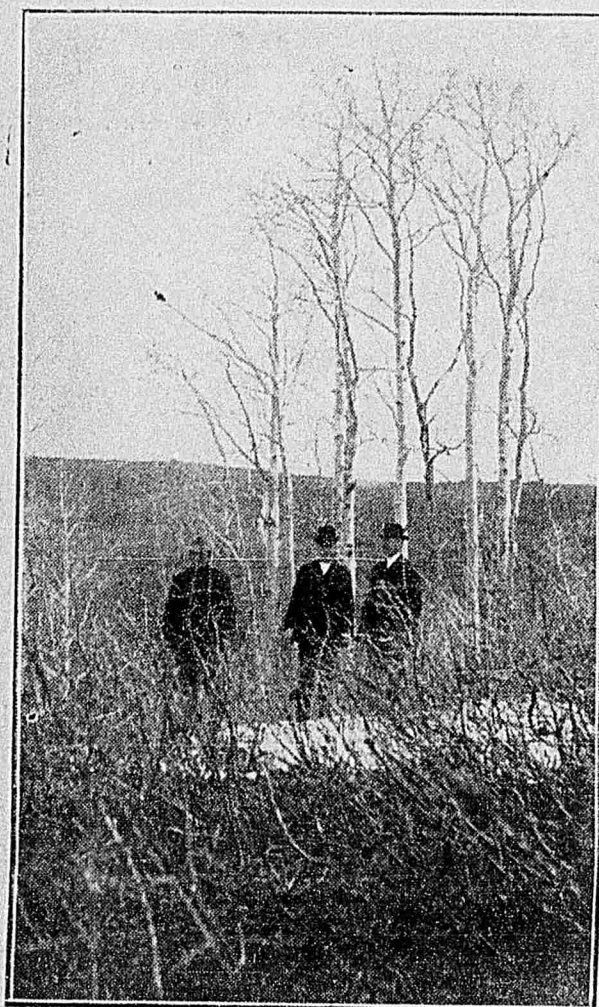
against intruders with stout locks and bolts the ghost answers the telephones, which conduct is so utterly foreign to the popular conception of ghosts' abilities that it has dumfounded Rev. H. Cresson McHenry and his assistant.

On two occasions the strange visitor has answered the phone when the office was empty, and the building locks have indicated that the ghost is well staff. The shade informed a friend of Mr. McHenry that he "had just left the mission," and to Mrs. George Somner, wife of one of Mr. McHenry's assistants, it imparted the information that her husband "would be home to supper." Both persons who conversed with the unknown occupant of the mission declare that its voice was modulated to the softest tones.

Mr. McHenry saw the ghost on July 4. The office force had a holiday, but Mr. McHenry visited the church to open his mail. As he was unlocking the iron gates at the entrance to the churchyard he glanced up at one of the windows and was astonished to see what appeared to be a man standing on the stairway inside the building.

The stairway leads from the office of the city mission in the basement of the church auditorium. As Mr. McHenry opened the gate the figure glided rapidly up the stairway, disappearing from view. The minister entered the church, locked the door behind him to prevent the escape of the intruder and searched the entire church from cellar to roof. He failed to find any window was locked securely and the desk untouched.—Philadelphia Correspondence Chicago Tribune.

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READY TO CUT.

Trees That Have Grown Up Under Protection, Which, Except for Its Continuance, Would Be Destroyed.

without learning first the best way to do it, we would spend a lot of money and possibly lose our results." This is the way the forester in charge tells what the little nursery is doing. Then he proceeds to speak for the work of future years, for which its study is preparing.

"When we fully understand the matter," he urges, "the Congress will probably be ready to tell us to go ahead. That will mean that we will start in to reclaim all of the denuded ranges of Utah and the west. We will set out young trees from this nursery and seeds from the forest areas, and will reach vast territories, where now there is nothing but brush and grass."

## HOPE FOR HILLS DENIED.

Senator Reed Smoot's summer in Europe is another move that is aimed at the future service for the forests. It is upon his report that the future government policy towards the forests will probably be based, as he went to Europe to study especially what is being done by foreign countries in the art of forestation. In America the art is only in its beginning, and its tasks have been to get the ranges in shape for the actual work of the department. To one disposed to consider the government an interfering "granny," argument are found in the fact that in Utah there are at least 12 large forest reserves, and in forests, sagebrush and barren hillsides have been incorporated in the tracts segregated for this protection, and as far as the people were concerned the grazing of sheep upon them was their only practical use. The seizing of them for the forest service has seemed an act to obtain the leasing fee.

## CHOSEN BY FORESTER.

Such areas were found by the expert foresters upon whose report they were segregated to have once been forest bearing, but cleared totally free of timber by some ancient forest fire, or by early wood choppers, so that no chance for reseeding remained.

"There are many preliminary stages to the art of practical forestation" is the way the matter was explained to the writer. "In Utah so far we have worked entirely in this preliminary field."

A range has two big enemies. One is the forest fire, always easy to start

with plenty of opportunity to spread, wherever dead trees and brush line the ground. The other is the grazing of too many animals upon it. Sheep and cattle men like sometimes to urge that animals do not eat young trees, but overlook a range once, and your young trees will disappear with the greatest rapidity, along with all the other foliage. Grasses themselves may often be exterminated by being cropped so close they cannot reseed.

"Our first business has been to solve the stock problem and the fire problem. Most of our ranges in Utah are now comparatively free from fire dangers, and are not overstocked." This explanation was welcome to one who had been among the remarkably new growths on the Strawberry, for the country was dotted by piles of brush, where stray limbs had been collected, so that they would not transmit fire one from another in long pathways. More than this a remarkable absence of coyotes and magpies had been noticed. The animals, it was found, had been condemned as dangerous to the range, and exterminated by fixing poison bait for them through the crags and cliffs where they made their home.

## USE WITHOUT WAIVER.

Well up towards the western outlet of the Strawberry tunnel, a saw mill was found in full operation, conducted by State Senator Henry Gardner, who was busy turning out telegraph poles for use in a power transmission line from Tintic Junction to the reclamation tunnel.

## GARDNER AND HIS MILL.

Here was an opportunity to get a view of government control from a real pioneer, for the Gardner since 1847 had been noted as mountain workers, trail blazers, timber cutters, and saw mill builders.

"How do you like the new regulations?" was a question put to Mr. Gardner as he sat nooning upon a large pile of sawed logs. They testified that the spirit of control was anything but arbitrary, and that it was not to grab away all utility from the forest land.

"It's all right," was the reply of the practical logger. "It seems that the timber is coming faster than it's going, and that you're not allowed to take logs any oftener than they are

found matured and ready to cut. Next year's crop is always guaranteed. I like it. It means a perpetuation of the forest."

## BRANDED BY CUTTING.

A foray into the timbered gulches near the saw mill furnished a practical demonstration of the "economy practiced." Every bunch of trimmings—"waste and tops" according to official language—had been gathered and piled where it fired, it could do no damage. Each stump was of a regulation height so that ugly, unsightly stumps did not loom up above the undergrowth. More than that, each one was branded, and on each of the logs cut down, a similar brand was found. The obligation of the woodman was to cut only trees branded as ripe for destruction, and then to cut them between the two brands fixing the height of stump so that one brand would remain on the stump and another on the log cut down.

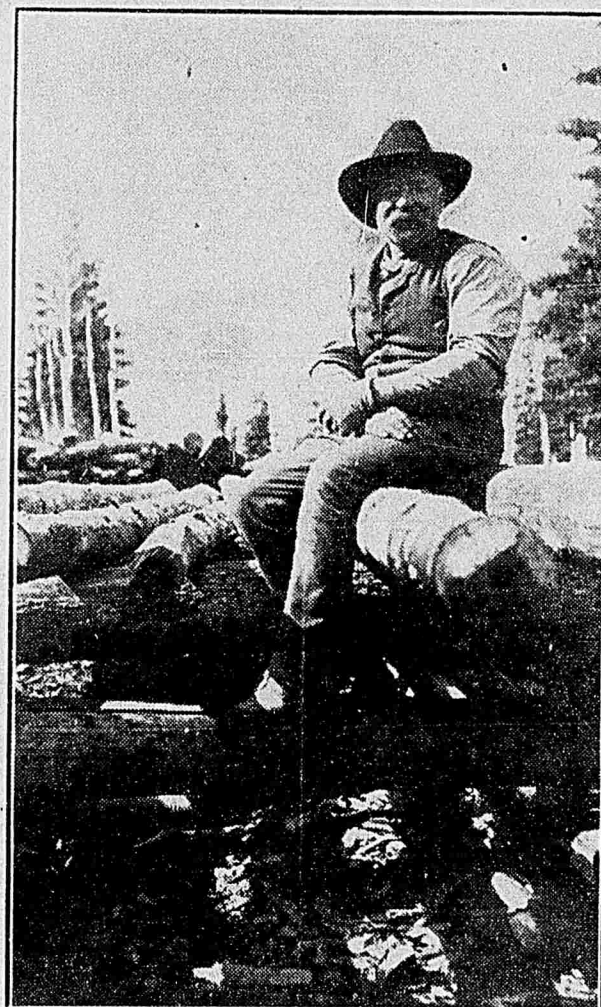
"All these new trees you find coming up," it was explained, "are the result of controlling the grazing so that the ranges are not overstocked. Most of the trees are under 10 years of age. At 100 years of age, they will be ready to cut. Those now being cut were what were too small to attract the early day consumers in their work of taking out wood, or those that were buried in deep snow on their winter excursions to the canyons."

## THE ADMINISTRATION.

The way the forests are administered is interesting, in Utah. There are a dozen of them, each under a supervisor, and his men are graded up from guard to deputy supervisor, not to mention the clerks who are maintained in each supervisor's office. Each supervisor has from 3 to 20 men under him. In Utah there are just 100 men, all told. Lowest in rank and pay, is the forest guard, who is hired for emergencies in the "fire season," then comes the assistant ranger, the deputy ranger, and the ranger, finally the deputy supervisor, and then the executive head of the forest.

## THE ASSISTANT FORESTER.

Independent of all these is the free lance of the forest, a man apparently needed in all systems of admin-



A MOUNTAIN LOGGER.

State Senator Henry Gardner of Spanish Fork, His Father Built Most of the Pioneer Saw Mills.

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