Objects of the Forestry Association.

So many inquiries are made both personally and by letter as to the objects of the Utah Forestry Association, that a plain statement of its objects seems highly proper.

In a general way it may be said that its objects are to study the forestry problem in relation to the conservation of the water supply, and in relation to the agricultural and horticultural interests of Utah. One of the most pressing needs, so far as the water supply is concerned, is to secure timber reservations around the headwaters of our principal streams. To secure these reservations it is necessary for the people, who will be benefited, to present petitions to the secretary of the interior asking for them. In these petitions the area of the proposed reservations, the names of the streams which lead to them, the character of the land, whether rocky, mountainous, heavily or sparsely timbered, and whether or not the soil is fit for agriculture when stripped of its timber, must all be clearly stated. It would probably be wise to state the facts in reference to the irrigation ditches already drawing water from the streams leading to the proposed reserves, and wherever positive statements should be made that the timber on the proposed reservation is not immediately necessary for the use of the national population.

It is not the purpose of the government in creating these reservations to withdraw them permanently from the use of the public, but only to reserve the title to the government for all time. When there is a demand for the timber and when it can be cut under proper supervision, without injury to the purpose of the reservation, the government sells the standing timber (stumpage as it is called) to local buyers.

Another purpose of the association is to collect and disseminate such knowledge as will be of use to people who wish to plant groves or ornamental shade trees. Much of the tree planting which has been done in the past has been most unfortunate. Large areas of land are now planted to Lombardy poplar trees. These trees are of little use. The timber from them is of slight value except for fuel, and for that purpose it is vastly inferior to many other species of trees. If tree planters had known of the valueless character of these trees they would undoubtedly have planted other kinds.

There are perhaps but few persons in Utah who know the best kind of tree to plant on any given kind of land or for any given purpose. Those who have this knowledge should be willing to disseminate it for the benefit of others in the Territory, and to facilitate the spread of such useful information, is among the other objects of the Forestry association. Those who have rare information pertaining to trees in their relation to health, to economy and to the industries of the commonwealth, ought to communicate such information to the society through its president or secretary, when steps will be taken to give it wide circulation and to file it under classified heads, for future use, as it is the purpose of the society to become a bureau of information on matters relating to tree and timber culture.

Should we not begin at once to collect just this kind of information?

In a previous paper I referred to the relations between forests, birds, injurious insects and fruit growing, and from the reports of dealers in fruit I showed that Utah is losing thousands of dollars every year from fruit injured by insects. And as was stated in the article referred to, birds are the natural enemies of insects. This is not true, however, of all birds. It is almost certain that the sparrows which are so plentiful in all of our cities, do far more harm than good, and the sooner systematic efforts are made to rid ourselves of them the sooner can we hope for the increase of the insect-eating song birds. Careful observations should be made to determine positively which birds are our friends and which ones are our enemies.

A great task which is before the people of Utah is the foresting and the re-foresting of the mountain sides. This is a task of such magnitude that full information regarding the best means should be collected, before the work is undertaken; but when it is once accomplished, the land which is now useless, and which in many places is rapidly losing all of its soil, leaving only the bare rock exposed, will yield a yearly revenue which will go far towards the support of our state institutions.

I was knew a farmer who complained of "hard times" while he permitted large tracts of his land to remain uncared, as would whether it is forgetful, it is not so anywhere, and a case to solve its hands to be unemployed as for an indictment?

The Forestry Association is seeking to get some reliable information as to the extent of the present timber areas of Utah, and also of the extent of its timber. To make this information as accurate observer is needed in every subdivision, one who will give the subject a little time and careful thought, and who will write a careful report, answering the questions which will be sent him on application. All who are willing to take part in this work are requested to communicate with either the president or secretary of the Utah Forestry Association.

The address of the president is Dr. Jos. Jesse R. Park, 250 north State street, Salt Lake City. The secretary may be addressed at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

E. A. WHITING, Secy.

In the Land Office.

A motion for review in the case of L. S. Dickinson vs F. A. Auerbach has been filed in the land office. The case involves a desert entry of 640 acres across the Jordan. The case was recently decided by the secretary of the interior in favor of Mr. Auerbach.

James Farnsworth, of Mount Pleasant, Sanpete county, filed an application for a homestead entry of 120 acres in section 22, township 19 south, range 1 west.

William Brown, of Salt Lake City, filed an application for a homestead entry of 80 acres in section 14, township 2 south, range 4 west.

Fred J. Schneider, of Salt Lake City, filed an application for a desert entry of 80 acres in section 32, township 3 north, range 1 west.

Thomas B. Cox, of Beaver, filed an application for a desert entry of 120 acres in section 30, township 28 south, range 10 west.

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