

## 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 head in 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 heading in the proposed reserves, and wherever possible statements should be made that the timber on the proposed reservation is not immediately necessary for the use of the resident 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 in 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 chief 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 informa-

tion on matters relating to tree and timber interests.

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.

If we knew a farmer who complained of "hard times" while he permitted large tracts of his land to remain unused, we would wonder at his stupidity. Is it not as unwise for a state to allow its lands to be unemployed as for an individual?

The Forestry Association is anxious to get some definite information as to the extent of the present timber area of Utah, and also of the character of the timber. To secure this information an accurate observer is needed in every neighborhood, 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. John R. Park, 166 north, State street, Salt Lake City. The secretary may be addressed at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

C. A. WHITING, Sec'y.

Arbor Day is at hand and a few practical suggestions as to how to plant trees may not be inopportune. The first question which presents itself is, "what kind of a tree, or trees shall I plant?" The answer to this question depends upon the character of the soil, and upon the purpose for which the tree is planted.

There are at least five trees which are fine street trees, and also suitable for most yards which seem to grow well in Utah. These five are the hard maple, the white elm, the linden or basswood, the black locust and the black walnut. It is highly probable that there are other trees nearly or quite as good as these, which will do well in our climate. All of these trees require a moderately dry soil, that is

they are not suited to wet or swampy ground. For such ground the silver maple, the gray willow and the box elder are suitable. All of these trees furnish fairly good fuel and they will grow on land that would otherwise be useless. Of course native trees are more likely to live than trees which are imported. It is generally better to procure trees from a nursery than from the forest, for in a well managed nursery especial attention is given to the formation of roots, which will permit the trees to be transplanted with little danger to its life.

It is usually better to transplant small trees; as a general thing it is better to select trees not more than two inches in diameter and not more than ten feet high.

The roots which are essential to the life of a tree are microscopic in size and they are invariably killed by drying. These essential roots, or root hairs, are borne on the sides of the smaller roots, hence the necessity of securing an abundance of fibrous roots.

Before the tree is dug up, a large hole should be dug to receive it. The hole should be so large that when the tree is placed in it and the roots properly spread out, the sides of the hole will be a foot from the ends of the roots. The hole should not be too deep. The tree should be planted at about the same depth at which it was growing. Before the tree is placed in the hole, if the ground is dry, one or more pails of water should be poured in. In digging the tree up for transplanting care should be taken not to shake the earth from the roots. By shaking the roots, while they are covered with earth, the root hairs are broken off, and as before stated these are essential to the life of the tree. Whenever it is possible it is a good plan to retain a bulb of earth around the roots, and place this unbroken in the hole prepared for the tree.

Care should be taken to have fine mellow soil, not too wet, to pack around the roots of trees. In filling the hole care should be taken to press the soil closely around the roots.

After the tree is planted it will need careful and regular watering. A good way, if one has only a few trees to attend to, is to put straw around the trees and pour the water on the straw. In this way it soaks slowly into the ground and is less likely to wash the soil away from the roots than when it is poured directly on the ground. The ground around the trees should be kept free from grass and weeds for at least two or three years after the trees are planted.

Would it not be well for teachers who celebrate Arbor Day to make it the occasion of a lesson in forestry for their pupils? I would also suggest that an accurate record be kept at each school house of the growth of all the trees in the yard. In this way valuable statistics of timber culture may be preserved.

C. A. WHITING,  
Secretary Utah Forestry Association.

The Dillon, Mont., *Enterprise* makes the startling announcement that many of the miners and prospectors of Summit county are making money selling gold and specimens to parties that are trying to start gold camps in other parts of the state.