

excellent returns. Where abandoned fields are adjacent to timbered areas with seed trees, natural restocking will take place. To promote this, excessive surface erosion before the seedlings have become established must be prevented. This can be done by seeding the fields to grass following cultivation, in case no other cover is present. The area must also be completely protected against fire. Some erosion will of course take place while the land is gradually being claimed by young trees, particularly when the restocking is very light and other vegetation cover is inadequate. Even gullying may occur. Under such circumstances, and also when the abandoned areas are extensive or seed trees unavailable, planting must be resorted to if a satisfactory stand of timber is to be expected.

With some effort on the part of the owner cleared mountain land no longer required for agriculture may be converted into permanent pasture or temporary pasture that may later become restocked to a timber crop, which, in addition to insuring the owner a reasonable rent return will protect the soil from erosion and actually increase its fertility through the addition of organic material in the form of leaf litter and detritus.

C. R. HURSH,  
*Associate Forest Ecologist, Forest Service.*

**F**ORESTRY Cause Is Helped by Northwest Chambers of Commerce

Though members of chambers of commerce or other business organizations may live within a region containing almost half the remaining virgin timber of the United States it does not necessarily follow that they are interested in forestry. With heavy forests all around them, in what is still a new country, it would be only natural for them not to worry unduly about the future forest. Until a few years ago this was the situation in the States of Oregon and Washington. However, with Washington leading and Oregon second in annual lumber cut, and with the cut-over areas in the two States running over 300,000 acres annually, this attitude is giving way to an active interest in future sources of raw material for the region's dominant industry—lumbering.

There are now forestry committees in 21 chambers of commerce in these two States. The first of these committees was started by the chamber of commerce of Seattle, the dean of the State forest school of Washington, and a local forest supervisor six years ago. Some of the things for which the committee worked are a study of forest taxation, improvement of State forest fire laws, forestry education in the public schools, reduction of smokers' fires, abatement of the summer smoke nuisance, leaving roadside strips of timber, setting aside of State forests, and the formation of a State forest policy.

Later, the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce, in southern Oregon, put on annually a stop-forest-fires campaign which was successful in awakening local business men not only to the need of fire prevention but to the problem of growing future forest crops.

#### Accomplishment In Oregon

An outstanding example of effective accomplishment is the work of the forestry committee of the chamber of commerce of Portland, Oreg.,

in securing the passage of a forest-taxation law in 1929. This committee, headed by a banker, succeeded not only in interesting in forest taxation the majority of the bankers of the State, but in bringing about the organization of a forestry committee in the State bankers' association. With the lumber industry the dominant one of the region, every banker needed to be informed on forest-taxation matters and to know something of the problems of growing wood crops.

This Portland committee is taking a keen and active interest in forest research, State forests, forest protection, more topographic maps for the State (to be secured through cooperation of Federal, State, county, and municipal agencies), public land laws, roadside timber strips, arboretums, and many other phases of forestry. Forestry committees in the smaller towns are interesting themselves in State and Federal legislation as well as in more local matters such as roadside planting, the smoke nuisance from brush fires as it affects the summer-tourist business, smokers' fires, future timber supplies for local sawmills, and local demonstration forests.

JOHN D. GUTHRIE,  
*Assistant District Forester, Forest Service.*

---

## **F**RUITS and Vegetables in Growing Demand Among All Consumers

The contents of the consumers' market basket present a vastly more varied assortment of fresh foodstuffs than in the so-called "good old days" or even than a few years ago. Common necessities of to-day were in the luxury class and were frequently unobtainable 20 years ago.

This change in the daily diet of the average family is due to a number of influences, the principal ones being the (1) development of large-scale production in new areas which supply fresh fruits and vegetables during seasons when home-grown or locally grown produce is not available; (2) increasing popular appreciation of the value of green stuffs in the diet; (3) continued improvement in grading, packing, and handling on the way to the retailer; (4) more general display of these goods by chain grocery stores; and (5) distribution by motor truck to small towns and even to individual farm and village families. Constant abundance has resulted in prices within the reach of almost every consumer. Instead of depending upon the root cellar, the dealer offers produce fresh from the fields—tender, crisp, and appetizing—every month in the year and usually at moderate prices.

The menu of the average family of to-day can be well balanced throughout the year with head lettuce, fresh peas, spinach, kale, new cabbage, string beans, new carrots, green peppers, eggplant, and other fresh vegetables, citrus fruits, and apples. During the early spring and late fall this list can be supplemented by such fresh produce as was formerly out of season—green corn, new potatoes, grapes, plums, pears, peaches, strawberries, watermelons, cantaloupes, and kindred types of melons—all from distant regions. This menu is in sharp contrast with the former steady winter diet of meats, cereals, and fruits and vegetables that had been stored for long periods, or canned.

Our large consuming and distributing markets now draw their supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables from all parts of the United States