

year-old child plants a tree, or a ten-year-old boy reports a big fire or puts out a small one, it stands a good chance of making the wires.

Interest in Animals: The popular interest in animals makes stories about them good reading. Our work gives many opportunities to make use of this appeal. A Ranger's horse may be "pensioned" after long and faithful service; a Forest officer might make friends with his feathered and furry neighbors; anecdotes might be picked up about cattle or sheep or dogs on the ranges. And then we have our wild life to draw on. Animal stories will always be snapped up by the press. Scan the pictorial sheets and you will see almost as many pictures of animals as of bathing beauties.

#### GOOD NEWSPRINT PAPER MADE FROM NEW ZEALAND HARDWOODS

Newsprint paper equal in quality to American standards has been made from New Zealand hardwoods by the Forest Products Laboratory, after a year of experimentation carried on for the New Zealand Forest Service, according to a recent announcement made by the New Zealand government. The final test of the operation was the production of several tons of newsprint and rotogravure papers at two Wisconsin mills and the running of the newsprint paper over the presses of a daily newspaper.

The arrival at thinning age of 100,000 acres of fast-growing planted forests in New Zealand and the consequent desire to put the plantations on a sound production basis through profitable utilization of thinnings prompted the attempts to use two native species and four introduced species in the manufacture of newsprint and other papers. The Laboratory undertook the investigation in the belief that results might be obtained which would be applicable to American species. This belief has been justified. The development of a successful process for manufacturing newsprint from New Zealand hardwoods opens up possibilities in the use of American hardwoods (hitherto unused for this purpose) for newsprint production in this country.

The production of newsprint from hardwoods is of great significance in the United States. With spruce, the "Old Reliable" of newsprint, and hemlock nearing depletion in this country, with finished newsprint, pulpwood, and pulp being imported in quantities, and with the prospect of increasing rather than decreasing prices, diversification of any sort should not be unwelcome to newsprint users.

#### THE WILDERNESS AS A MINORITY RIGHT

Robert Marshall, Northern Rocky Mountain For. Exp. Sta.

Manly Thompson's anti-wilderness article in the May 14 issue of the Service Bulletin when simmered down rests on two ideas. Only one-half of one per cent of all the people desire to use the wilderness areas. Consequently, according to the fundamental Forest Service policy of "the greatest good to the greatest number in the long run", we have no right to set aside any of our area for the exclusive use of such an infinitesimal minority. The only errors observable in this logic are an unproven premise and an inconsequent conclusion.

Presumably pure guesswork forms the basis of Mr. Thompson's appraisal of the proportion of the population with "any hankering for a real primeval wilderness." Another person might honestly estimate as high as ten per cent. At present there is no way to determine which supposition is closest to the truth. But after all the

exact fraction of the citizens who demand wilderness areas is not of dominant importance. The real question is whether this minority, whatever its numerical strength, is entitled to enjoy the life which it craves. This is the old problem of minority rights, which has been in continuous dispute since the savages of the Late Stone Age first banded together in rudimentary tribes.

Democracies, which are founded on the principle that the will of the majority shall govern, have a tendency to ignore the prerogatives of minorities. The outstanding champions of democracy, Voltaire, Mill, Paine, Jefferson, all appreciated this danger, and their works are interjected with eloquent pleas for the rights of the few. To-day, in almost all democracies, the liberty of minorities to write and speak as they desire is at least theoretically protected. Not only is this negative recognition given those who differ from the mass, but furthermore, federal, state, and municipal governments spend prodigious sums of money to meet the more costly needs of only a fragment of the people. Thus public funds maintain museums, art galleries, universities, swimming pools, and the patent office. They, like the wilderness areas, are open to the use of everyone; similarly they are vital to a diminutive minority of the entire population. Yet they are almost universally approved; and the appropriations to maintain them are increasing phenomenally.

A small share of the American people have an overpowering longing to retire periodically from the encompassing clutch of a mechanistic civilization. To them the enjoyment of solitude, complete independence, and the beauty of undefiled panoramas is absolutely essential to happiness. In the wilderness they enjoy the most worthwhile or perhaps the only worthwhile part of life. This necessity of getting away from the stifling artificiality of civilization cannot be explained to those who have never apprehended the passion for the wilderness, which is just as genuine as the more conventional yearnings for love and beauty. It may be an atavistic and unreasonable lust, but it is ineradicable. Strangely enough, a large share of America's greatest thinkers have felt this urgency: Jefferson, Thoreau, Emerson, Melville, Mark Twain, Henry Adams, William James. Furthermore, many of her outstanding men of action have looked upon the wilderness as a fundamental part of their life. In this connection Washington, Morgan, Gallatin, Jackson, Scott, Lee, Thomas, Grant, Sherman, Johnston, Hancock, Sheridan, Cleveland, and Roosevelt come immediately to mind. Exactly how large a part the wilderness played in the development of these men is indeterminate and irrelevant. The issue is whether those of similar desires have a right to a minor portion of America's vast forest area for the nourishment of their peculiar appetite.

"Our life would stagnate if it were not for the unexplored forests and meadows which surround it. We need the tonic of wilderness. We can never have enough of nature. We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor, vast and titanic features, the sea-coast with its wrecks, the wilderness with its living and its decaying trees." There are those to whom this thought seems truer to-day than when Thoreau expressed it three-quarters of a century ago. They feel that they too, in the words of another wilderness lover, are "endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And they know that for themselves the full enjoyment of these rights is possible only in the wilderness.

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