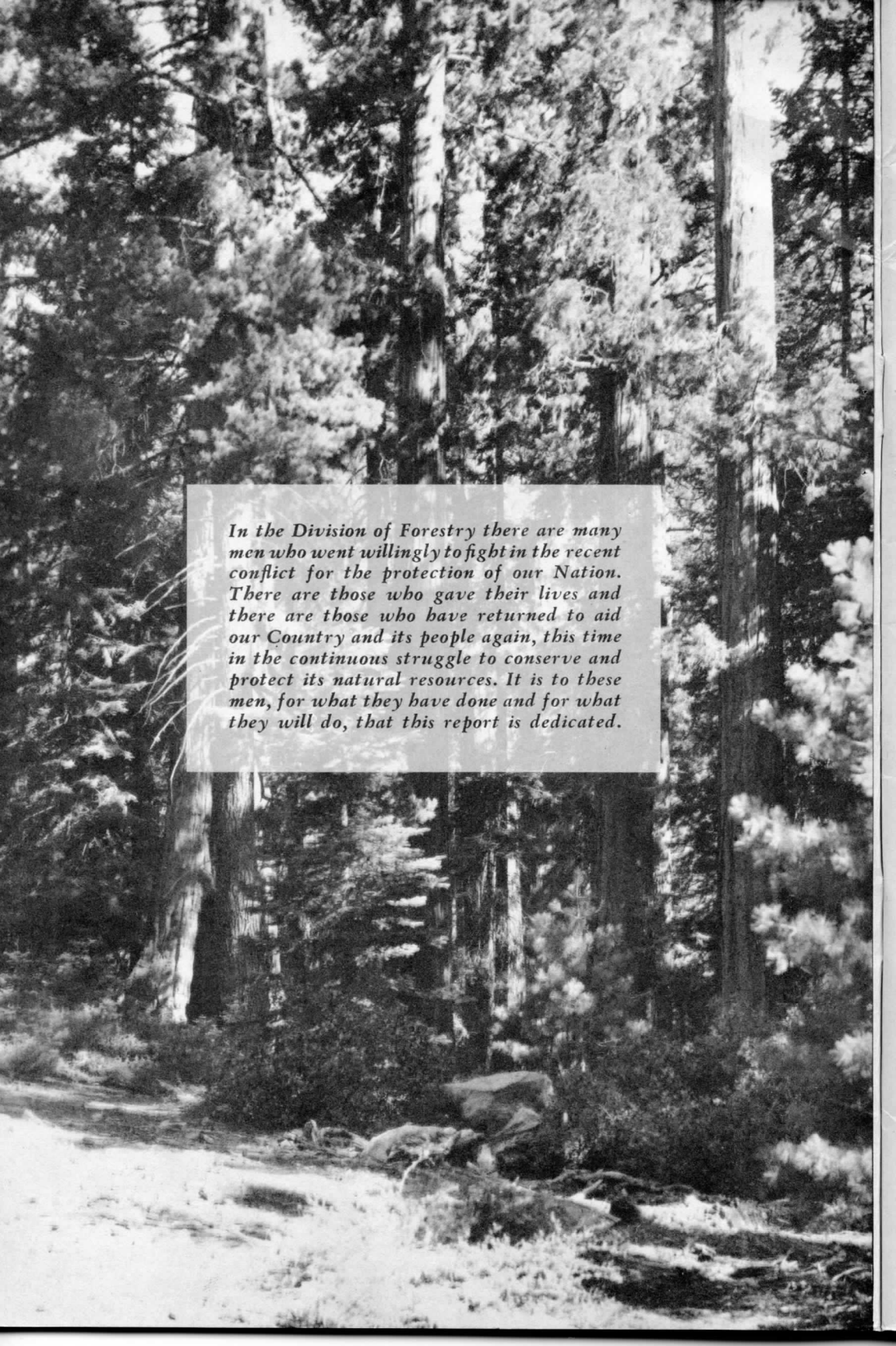




State Forestry Activities--1945

A black and white photograph of a dense forest. Tall, slender trees with thick trunks stand prominently, their branches reaching upwards. The ground is covered with a mix of dirt, rocks, and low-lying vegetation. A path or clearing leads from the bottom left towards the center of the image, disappearing into the forest. The lighting creates strong contrasts between the sunlit areas and the deep shadows within the woods.

In the Division of Forestry there are many men who went willingly to fight in the recent conflict for the protection of our Nation. There are those who gave their lives and there are those who have returned to aid our Country and its people again, this time in the continuous struggle to conserve and protect its natural resources. It is to these men, for what they have done and for what they will do, that this report is dedicated.

WARREN T. HANNUM
Director
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EARL WARREN
Governor
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

1945 Activities
of the
Division of Forestry

DEWITT NELSON
State Forester

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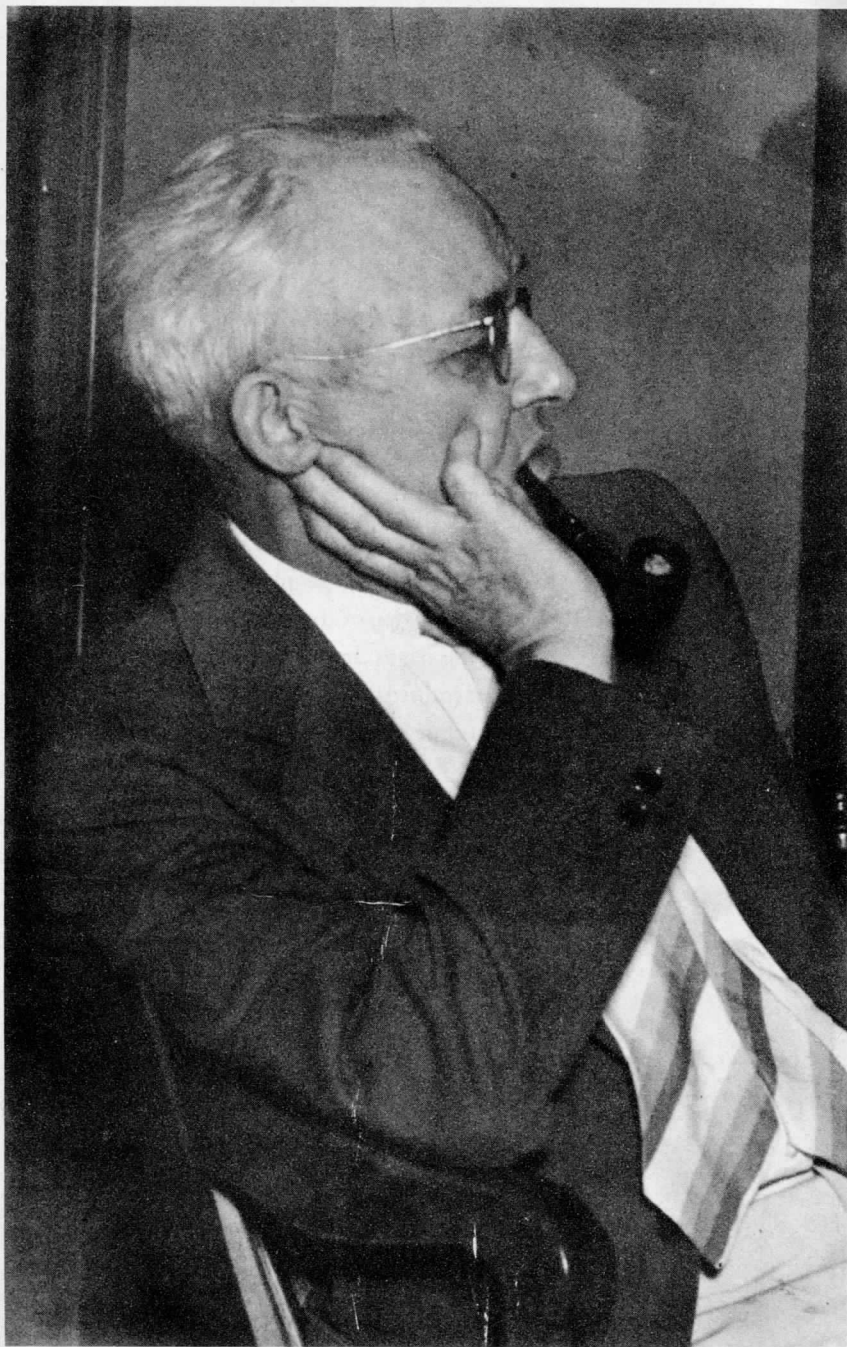
CONTENTS

| | <i>Page</i> |
|---|-------------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| M. B. Pratt—State Forester, 1921-1944 | 5 |
| 1945—California's Year of State Forestry Activity | 7 |
| Legislative Report on State's Forest Situation | 13 |
| Division Changes in Administration | 17 |
| Administration of Forest Practices on Private Lands | 23 |
| Forest Acquisition and State Forests | 29 |
| Cooperation on Insect and Disease Control | 39 |
| California's Christmas Tree Problem | 43 |
| State Responsibility to Control Fires on "Wild Lands" | 45 |
| Fire—A Land Clearance Tool? | 49 |
| Fire—A Deterrent to Sustained Yield Management | 53 |

FOREWORD

The past years have seen the efforts of the Division of Forestry expended chiefly toward the protection of the State's forests and wild lands from devastation by ruinous fires. This policy of adequate forest, watershed, and range protection will continue. The realization that the forest presents further important problems has this year occasioned the people of California through legislative action to greatly widen the scope of the activities of the Division of Forestry, as is shown in the following pages. It will be our policy in the future, with the cooperation of the lumber industry, to administer to the forests' needs so as to perpetuate their immeasurable useability for the peoples and future generations of California.

DEWITT NELSON
State Forester



Merritt B. Pratt

California's State Forester

1921-1944

State Forester M. B. Pratt, veteran of 27 years of active service with the State, and 24 years as chief executive of the Division of Forestry, retired on January 1st of this year. Mr. Pratt lived to enjoy only a year of his retirement period as he succumbed to a heart attack on November 24, 1945.

His contribution to forestry is expressed by the present nature, scope and activity of the Division of Forestry. He was instrumental in building the Division from an insignificant educational agency of but two foresters and three associates to an offensive-defensive organization affording intensive fire protection to approximately 28,000,000 acres or 50 per cent of the State's primary forest and watershed lands.

California's forest fire protection system is recognized as one of the best and most progressive in the United States, and Mr. Pratt's name will long be associated with its structure, operation and improvements. He was a proponent of State Forests, sound forest practices, and educational forestry benefits to private timber owners, but unfortunately was not able to be with the Division to see his wishes materialize in this significant progressive year of 1945.

