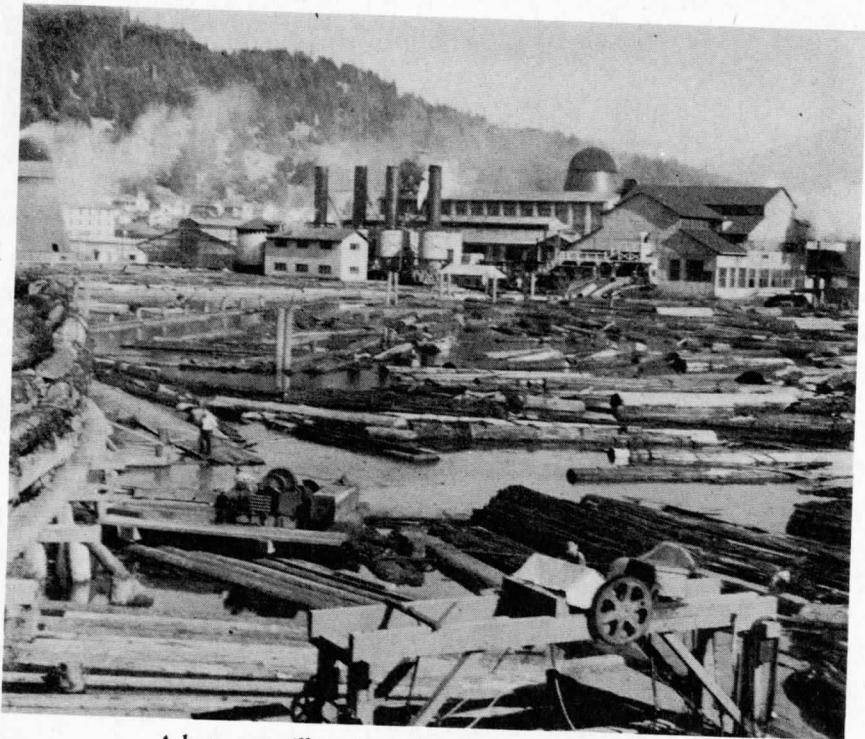


1945-California's Year of State Forestry Activity

Vital to the economy of any State whose lumber industry substantially contributes raw material for construction and expansion, containers for the export of enormous citrus and vegetable produce, and forest products for diversified manufacturers, is the perpetuation of that industry as a part of the State's balanced economic system. In California's peak war production year when airplane factories, shipbuilders, and war industries were demanding a maximum labor supply, the State's forest products industries employed 5 per cent of the total manufacturing wage earners. In 1944 logging contractors, sawmills, planing mills and box manufacturers paid out \$79,271,935 in wages to 30,137 employees. As long ago as 1939 the census showed the industry spending \$34,233,512 a year for material and supplies, its products exceeding \$87,193,148 and its taxes, other than federal income, totaling \$1,844,000. During the war years capital investment exceeded \$141,000,000, and when added to timber land investment a grand total would exceed \$320,000,000.



A large sawmill in the Redwood region of California.



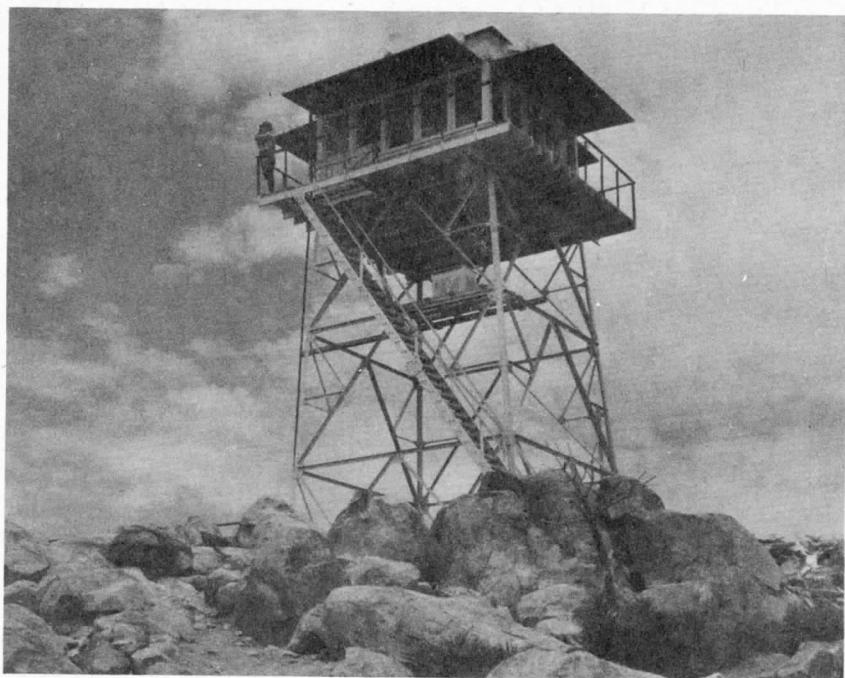
Scotia, California—A lumber company town whose future depends on a continuous supply of timber to its mill.

The State has had for 30 years the highest per capita lumber consumption in the United States. In 1941 this figure was 560 board feet per capita against an average for the entire country of 275 board feet. In 1941 also the State lumber consumption total was 3,784,000,000 board feet, while production was only 2,292,000,000 board feet. These two conditions indicate that besides being the largest per capita user in the United States, California is already an importing State, not now self-sufficient and very likely to become less so.

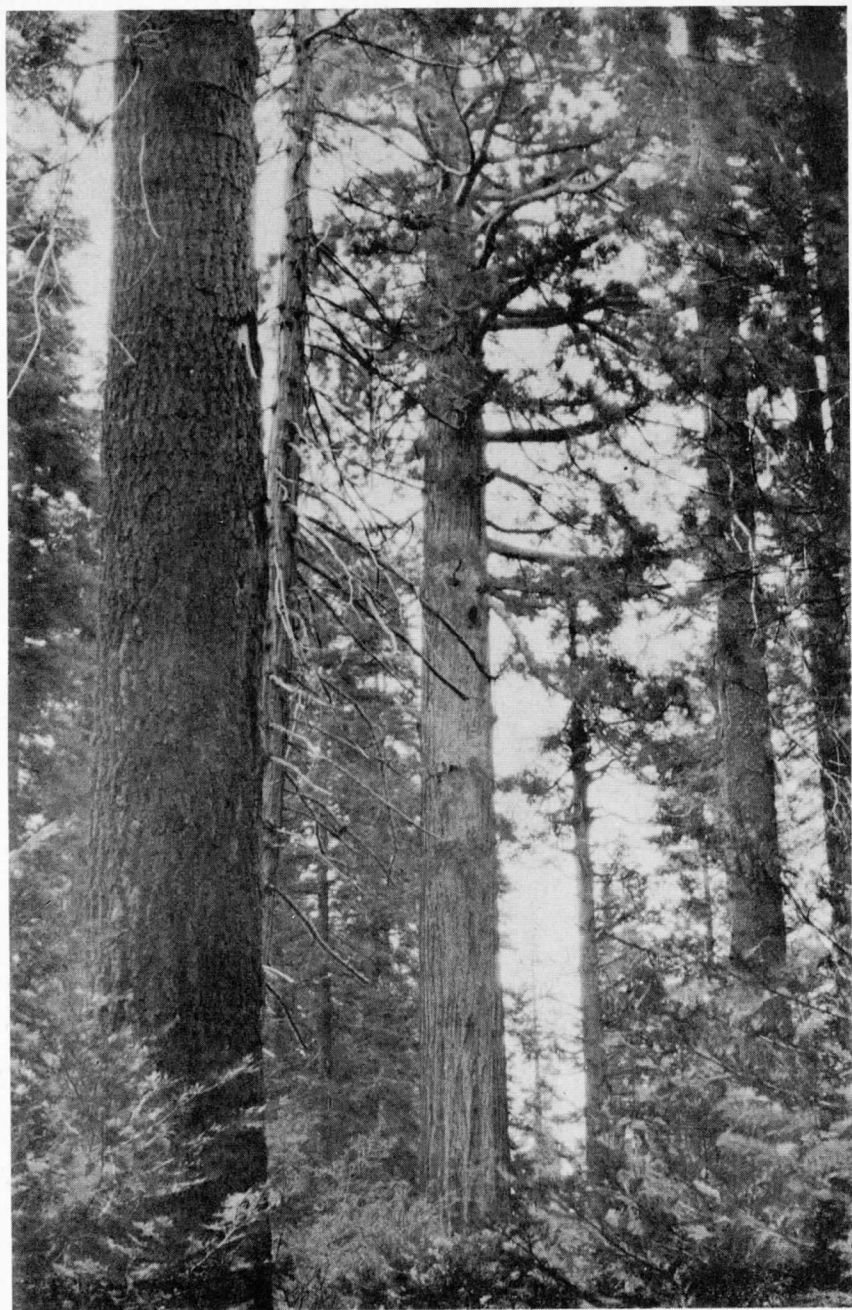
Each year almost 50 per cent of the lumber production is in the form of box shook and veneer for the export of the State's citrus, deciduous fruit and vegetable crops. Without an immediate local supply of lumber these tremendous exports would virtually come to a standstill.

This condition of nonreplaceable demand, undeniable value, and a large outlet for labor points conclusively to the establishment of California's lumber industry on a most permanent basis.

With seriously denuded forest areas and ghost lumber towns frequently noticed by Californians in their travels about the State, there has been manifested during the past few years increasing interest in the State's forest situation. Being cognizant of the fact that millions of dollars from the public treasury are being expended each year to provide fire protection to private industries' raw material, the public has finally asked itself a very practical question. "What is the lumber industry doing to insure us that our children will have the same abundant lumber supply as we are now so fortunate to enjoy?" The people have found as their answer, that of the 7,000,000 acres of accessible timber cropland in private ownership, 421,434 acres have been certified by the Western Pine Association as "Tree Farms," or lands devoted to the growing of timber as a crop. In addition to the Tree Farms there are many areas, managed by progressive lumber companies, that will yield abundant future supplies of lumber to California's demanding markets, but the aggregate of such properly managed forest lands and Tree Farm areas would not exceed one-third of the total acreage in private ownership. With this glaring fact in mind the people turned to the history of forest exploitation in the United States for a comparison of what many of the State's timber operators are likely to do in the immediate future with their supply of remaining virgin timber! History shows them that the Southern States' industry is being forced into timber crop production because the supply of virgin timber has long



In protecting industry's raw material from destruction by fire, the people of California spend more than \$3,000,000 annually.



On the 7,000,000 acres of available timber crop land in private ownership in California there still remains more than 79,346,000,000 board feet of virgin timber. To insure an adequate future lumber supply to California markets, the people have this year demanded that as this virgin timber is harvested the lands must be left productive and capable of growing a new crop.

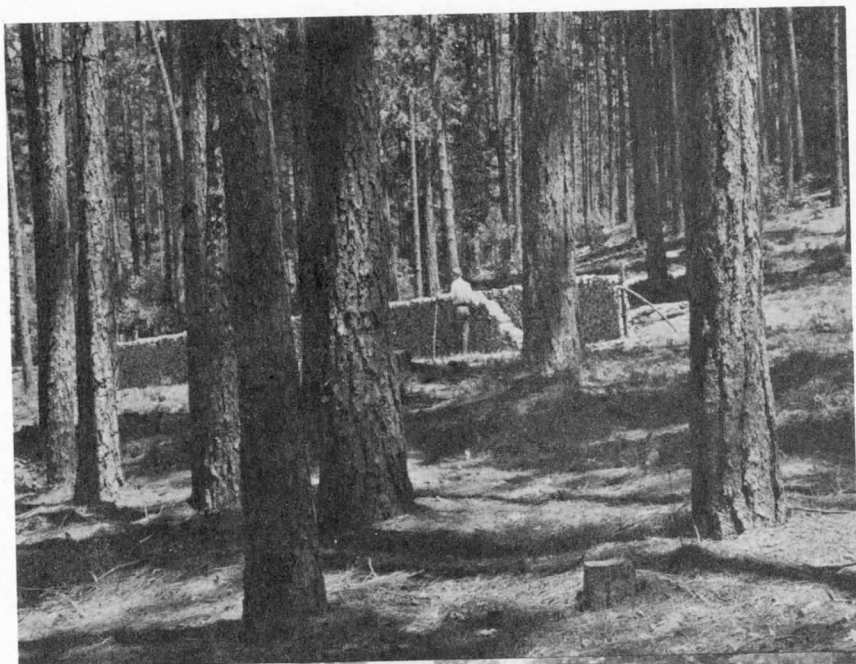
since disappeared. The same condition exists in the East where millions of dollars are being spent on reforestation. They see that several lumber companies in the Pacific Northwest have recently gone out of business because of a depleted timber supply. They recognize, however, that while virgin timber remains, progressive companies in California as well as in Oregon, Washington and Idaho are rapidly converting to forest management methods that will perpetuate their raw material. Even though the movement by industry to treat timber as a crop has gone forward rapidly when compared to the decades of forest misuse and depletion, the people have this year, through legislative action, demanded that all timber crop lands in California be left in a suitable condition to grow a new crop.

This legislative session of 1945 will long be remembered as one which expressed the people's interest in perpetuating California's lumber industry. The significant contribution rendered to forestry by the adoption of forest conservation measures demanding industrial action as well as public aid will be, if properly administered, a partial solution to California's problem of an adequate continuous lumber yield.

These new legislative measures, discussed at some length in the following pages, have increased the scope of the Division of Forestry immeasurably. The State has long been a leader among States affording adequate fire protection to timber and watershed lands. She has now assumed a similar spot in forest conservation by ordaining forest legislation historically proven to be so necessary to the wise use and management of privately-owned commercial timber lands. There has been no dictatorial expression made by the people in these measures. They are all democratically sound. Their success now rests entirely on the private timber owners and operators of the State. California will be a proving ground for this type of governmental regulation, and if successful it is foreseen that like measures of self-regulation will be adopted in other parts of the United States.

Until recently the major objective of the Division of Forestry has been the protection from fire of all land outside the National Forest boundaries that possessed state-wide interest by virtue of its contribution to the economic welfare of the State. This, in any State with long, dry summer periods similar to California's, is no menial task, and calls for large appropriations of public funds and good organization and efficiency from the governmental protection agency.

In addition to this major objective, the Division's functions now include the administration of forest practices on private timber land, acquisition of productive land suitable as demonstrational State Forests, and cooperation with industry in controlling insect and disease outbreaks. From these functions it is easily deduced that the California Division of Forestry now operates as a true representative of the people in forestry matters of state-wide interest. This determining factor has accounted for a tremendous increase of esprit de corps within the organization, and has offered a wide horizon regarding future work of interest to all employees.



An encouraging sign toward better forest cutting practices on privately-owned forest lands is the present Tree Farm movement initiated by the lumber industry. There are now some 421,434 acres in California certified as lands devoted to the growing of timber as a crop. Although the effort is still inadequate it deserves the encouragement and full support of the public.