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Black Walnut and the War

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of nature has begun: some 12,000,000 feet of ditches having been constructed and 95,000 acres of marsh drained. The area of country subject to the mosquito plague has been greatly reduced, especially in the north; but 190,000 acres of marsh in the south and southeast still remain to retard progress here (the report publishes a map showing conditions in 1917 and the progress made). The soils of southern New Jersey are very favorable for truck farming; but farms are abandoned, shore resorts fail to develop, and towns are backward. The lost opportunities represent a tremendous loss to the state. By completing the work of drainage it is estimated that the gain in value of farm, shore, suburban, and industrial property would amount to not less than \$500,000,000 and the prospective gain in population of 500,000.

BLACK WALNUT AND THE WAR

The black walnut tree and the Boy Scout have been linked in one of the nation's manifold efforts for winning the war. The black walnut contributes the gunstock towards the straight-shooting rifle and the propeller to the safe-flying airplane. With the exception of mahogany, no other wood is so well adapted to aircraft production; strength of fiber and freedom from splintering are properties that especially recommend it. Mahogany is an acceptable substitute, but this timber is unavailable in the United States. It could be imported from Africa or Central and South America, but shipping facilities are at present inadequate. Walnut is similarly desirable for the rifle stock. Birch can be substituted, but the walnut is preferable; for it is hard, strong, and does not warp. That is why Forester H. S. Graves designated the walnut the "Liberty Tree," and it was to help in production of the required supply that President Wilson last April affixed his signature to an emergency appeal urging 400,000 Boy Scouts to go on a searching expedition "to get every available black walnut tree to market."

In detailing the Boy Scouts as his messengers to survey the field and make a walnut census President Wilson said: "There are no longer any large individual lots of walnut timber, at the present time there are to be found only a few trees here and

there scattered over the whole of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains."

The bulk of black walnut is found in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee. Smaller amounts are found in fifteen other states, while the tree has become extinct along the Gulf and the southern Atlantic seaboard. The Forest Service states that nowhere is the walnut a gregarious tree, but that it occurs in scattered groups or as isolated individuals among other species. In the mountains of the Carolinas and Tennessee the wood is found intermingled with oaks and chestnuts; while in the original hardwood forests of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Kentucky it forms companionship with maple, hickories, oaks, basswood, and cherry. West of the Mississippi walnut is restricted to river valleys and is associated with the green ash, basswood, and white elm.

The present scarcity is the result of disregard of conservation in the past. Careless destruction of immature trees, a lack of appreciation of the value of the properties of the wood, and a failure to propagate the species systematically are responsible factors. Some twenty-five years ago black walnut was used indiscriminately in the manufacture of cabinet furniture, church furniture, tool handles, carriage hubs, shingles, and even as fence posts. In 1907 the market for walnut in European countries offered greater inducements than the home market, and large quantities were exported in the form of logs ten to twenty feet long and fifteen to thirty inches square. Foreign contracts for this species of timber were negotiated with England, France, and Russia upon the verge of the entry of this country into the world conflict. But since the completion of outstanding contracts a ban has been placed on the exportation of the product. The supply of Germany and the Allies is thought to be not so nearly exhausted as the stock in the United States.

The aircraft program of the United States for 1918 placed extraordinary demands on the reserve stock of walnut. From fifty to one hundred feet, board measure, are required to make one propeller. The airgoing machine has from four to five propellers, and they demand the very best grade of clear walnut board, fully one inch thick and free from defects. On an average it requires

375 feet of walnut for each airplane; the ambitious program of 10,000 airplanes a month would thus call for 3,750,000 feet. It requires three and one-half feet, board measure, for the production of a single rifle stock. By this standard the Ordnance Department has utilized over 5,495,000 feet in a year's manufacture of 1,568,661 rifles.

The Boy Scouts under the direction of the district Scout Master have had the co-operation of the county agricultural agents in locating the timber. The War Department equipped an office in the building of the Forest Service to receive reports daily, of which the number has approximated one hundred a day. The report of the Scout Master locates every black walnut tree and places it on record with details as to size and availability, together with owner's name and address and the purchase price of the timber. Some months ago the scouts had already reported over 14,000,000 board feet.

Demands are too urgent to take precaution of future needs, and consumption is excessive; but here again the Boy Scout comes to the fore. He is to see that trees are planted to take the place of those cut down, the rule being "five new trees for every one removed." Here excellent training and patriotic service go hand-in-hand.

S. R. WINTERS

NOTES FROM CURRENT PERIODICALS

USE OF GEOGRAPHICAL MATERIAL IN OTHER STUDIES

Because of the broad and practical nature of geography its subject matter and problems lend themselves admirably for use in other studies. Mathematical geography, for instance, furnishes material for intelligent problems in formal mathematics. An article "Map Scales" by R. M. Mathews in the October number of *School Science and Mathematics* offers suggestions from principles of map making "in the way of theory and problems which it is easy to introduce into the course on geometry with enlivening results."

Similarly the strong descriptive element suggests that the teacher of English may find in geography abundant subject matter for themes. In the number of *School Science and Mathematics* cited above O. W. Freeman describes "An Applied Course in High