

FORESTRY

Blighted Chestnut Trees May Be Made Into Paper

CHESTNUT forests now dead or dying from the blight can be salvaged twenty years hence for the tanning and paper industries, a report by the paper section of the Bureau of Standards of the U. S. Department of Commerce states.

Despite efforts to introduce blight resisting trees from Asia into this country, the spread of the disease together with the commercial exploitation of the chestnut by the tanning and paper industries indicates the ultimate exhaustion of American chestnut forests.

The day when a shortage will be felt has been postponed by many years, however, through the discovery that dead trees can be used as a source of paper and tanning. Investigations conducted by the Bureau of Plant Industry, U. S. Department of Agriculture, have revealed that dead trees suffer no appreciable loss of tannin even over long periods of time. It has also been demonstrated that dead trees can be used in paper manufacture and a paperboard mill has been built in the worst blight-infected territory with expectations of using the trees for twenty years.

"The available information undoubtedly indicates the ultimate exhaustion of our chestnut forests," concludes the Bureau of Standards report.

Science News Letter, August 15, 1931

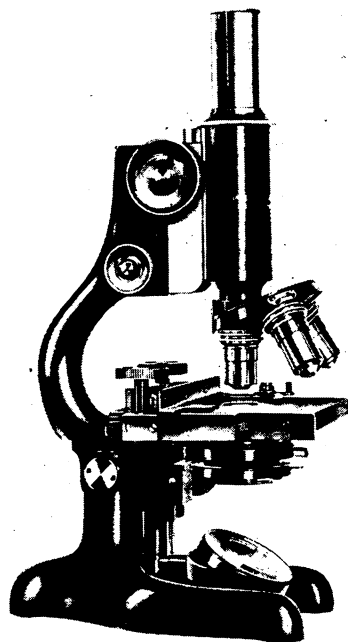
ZOOLOGY-CHEMISTRY

Study of Elks May Point Way to Managing Herds

AN ELK antler analyzed in Yellowstone National Park is found to contain about 43 per cent. protein. The analysis was made by William Rush of the Forest Service, who has been studying the elk of Yellowstone Park under a cooperative arrangement between the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Biological Survey, and the Montana Fish and Game Commission. This study is expected to yield valuable data to serve as a basis for the management of the park's big elk herds.

In connection with the protein content of the antler, it is interesting to note that the 40 tons of cottonseed cake bought by the National Park Service for feeding to the buffalo this fall also contain 43 per cent. protein.

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