



OK'd Christmas Trees

CHRISTMAS trees were used freely and without particular thought of possible effects on national timber economy, until Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot made the public forest-conservation-conscious something over a generation ago. Then a sudden revulsion of feeling set in. Everybody was shouting, "Woodman, spare that tree!" and vendors and users of Christmas trees came to be looked upon almost as public enemies. Unlimited cutting was opposed by equally unbridled demands to stop it.

Gradually, however, a sensible reaction from both extremes set in. Conservation began to mean sane and measured use instead of a panic-driven, miser-like refusal to expend anything. This ideal has not been fully realized by any means, but it is at least something toward which we as a nation are progressing. Chopping down a tree, even a little tree, is not necessarily a sin: it all depends on the circumstances.

RADIO

"Adventures in Science" with Watson Davis, director of Science Service, over the coast to coast network of the Columbia Broadcasting System, will be augmented with special programs due to the many scientific meetings during the Christmas season.

Wednesday, December 20, 3:35 p. m. EST, Dr. Fritz Zwicky, California Institute of Technology, will describe great exploding stars, speaking from Los Angeles.

Monday, Dec. 25, 4:30 p. m. EST, Watson Davis will present the highlights of the year in science, speaking from Washington.

Tuesday, Dec. 26, 6:15 p. m. EST, Dr. Wesley C. Mitchell, retiring president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, will discuss public relations of science. Introduction by Dr. Walter B. Cannon, president. From Columbus.

Friday, Dec. 29, 4:00 p. m. EST, Dr. F. R. Moulton, permanent secretary, A.A.A.S., will join with Watson Davis in interviewing leading scientists attending the A.A.A.S. meeting. From Columbus.

Listen in on your local station. Regular programs will continue each Monday, 4:30 p. m. EST, 3:30 CST, 2:30 MST, 1:30 PST.

The U. S. Forest Service and the various State conservation agencies now give definite approval and even encouragement to the use of Christmas trees, if they have been properly selected, and cut under forest-safeguarding supervision.

There are always many times more small trees in a young and developing stand of timber than can possibly grow up into logging size. Good forestry practice demands the thinning out of some of these, to give the remaining trees a chance to grow more rapidly.

Thinning operations require a good deal of labor, for which wages must of course be paid. Also, the removed trees must be disposed of. It is now accepted procedure to make these thinnings in time to ship the little trees for the Yuletide market, thereby finding an economic disposal for trees that would otherwise have to be stacked up and burned. The thinning operation thus becomes at least partly self-liquidating.

To identify Christmas trees obtained in conformity with good forestry practice, red certification tags are attached. Trees thus marked are not necessarily more expensive than similar trees less carefully obtained.

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results to great cities like New York now built nearly at sea level.

According to Prof. Mather, "The critical question for the twentieth century is: how can two or three billion human beings be satisfactorily organized for the wise use and equitable distribution of resources which are abundant enough for all but are unevenly scattered over the face of the earth? Clearly, the future of man depends upon finding and applying the correct answer to that particular, but far-reaching question."

How human society is organized forms perhaps the answer, Prof. Mather continues. Whether there shall be greater regimentation of society or its further organization along the principles of democracy must be decided.

"Both methods are being tried under a variety of conditions, and each has something to be said in its favor. But both cannot be equally conducive to the continuing existence of mankind, and one or the other must be selected as the basis for the future security of man."

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An Army tank recently ran down a deer in Wisconsin.

OFF PRESS DECEMBER 20th!

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