

## FORESTRY

# New Deal in Forestry Aims at Sustained Yield Management

## National Conference Recommendations Called Emancipation Proclamation For Forest Products Industries

**F**OREST resource conservation was the American people's first major undertaking in a planned social program, our first reversal of the complete and untrammelled individualism which had always been regarded as the dominant note in the American tradition. As a popular movement, it was already at least a generation old when President Roosevelt was inaugurated a year ago. Foresters and economists had become acutely aware of our dwindling woodland resources during the last years of the nineteenth century, and the necessity for doing something about it had been effectively propagandized into the popular will at the beginning of the twentieth, especially under the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot.

So far as the publicly owned forest lands, National and State, were concerned, the New Deal found itself largely anticipated by the U. S. Forest Service and the several state forestry departments. Without pretending that all problems of public forest management had been solved, the claim could none the less be fairly established that substantial progress in the right direction was being made. Further, it could hardly be denied that some of the difficulties of public forest administration were at least in part due to the chaos resulting from unplanned, unchecked individualism in privately owned forest lands, in privately managed timber and wood products industries, and in such intimately contacting private enterprises as stock grazing and farming.

To bring some order out of this situation, a conference of the lumber and timber products industries was called, under the chairmanship of Secretary of Agriculture Wallace. This conference brought together representatives of the U. S. Forest Service and other public agencies charged with the care of forest lands, several groups of professional foresters, the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, and the lumber and timber, pulp and paper, and naval stores industries.

Their report may be looked upon as almost an Emancipation Proclamation for industries dependent upon forests.

"Sustained yield forest management" sums up in four words the New Deal for American forests; the abandonment of forests as mines to be exhausted, the discovery of forests as "farms" to be intelligently cultivated.

The end sought, though stateable in a single simple phrase, "sustained yield," is not so simply attained. Many problems, some inherent in the nature of forests, some economic, some involving the human equation, must be solved and their answers reconciled. The conference undertook to do this, at least in

outline, in such a way as to include even the individual farmers' timber lots, as well as the huge holdings of private lumber companies and the great state and National forests.

The recommendations of the conference are contained in no less than 46 sections, beginning with the combating of fire, insects, disease and other natural forces of destruction, and carrying through to suggested sources of funds for the prosecution of new lines of research in the forests. Outstanding suggestions include: consolidation of administration of publicly owned forests, elimination of unnecessary competition in marketing between public and private forests, vigorous pursuit of the present policy of adding to public forests by purchase of new lands, adjustment of tax burdens on private forest lands to encourage rational rather than forced marketing, Federal organization of credits, increased protection against fire, etc., establishment of sound lumber specifications, increased appropriations for administration, education and research.

*Science News Letter, March 17, 1934*

## ARCHAEOLOGY

# Chickens Were Known in Old Testament Days, Art Reveals

**I**N OLD TESTAMENT times, the people in Palestine did have chickens.

This frequently raised question of Biblical bird lore is settled at last by the fine picture of a cock, found in the tomb of a Bible army captain, at Mizpah. The tomb is identified as that of Jaazaniah, mentioned as coming to Mizpah, II Kings, 25:23. The seal is inscribed: "Belonging to Jaazaniah, servant of the King."

Prof. William F. Bade of the Pacific School of Religion discovered the seal while excavating ruins of Tell en-Nasbeh which he has identified as the Biblical Mizpah, scene of many Bible events.

Reports of the cock's picture and the personal seal of the Bible soldier have aroused considerable interest among Bible historians, Prof. Bade said, and he has received many letters.

"No domestic chickens are mentioned in the Old Testament literature," he explained, "a fact which has sometimes been alleged for the view that chickens

were unknown in Palestine until New Testament times. The seal is proof positive that they were known in Palestine at least as early as the seventh century B.C."

Chickens are believed to have first come to Palestine from India, by way of Babylonia and other intermediate countries.

The seal is also cited by Prof. Bade as clinching evidence that the mound he is excavating is the real Mizpah. Various places have been named as the Bible Mizpah, where Samuel judged, where Saul was chosen king by sacred lot, and where the capital of Judah was established after Jerusalem was destroyed in 585 B.C. The Bible record tells of Jaazaniah going to Mizpah to offer fealty to the governor of Judah appointed by the Chaldean conqueror. There Jaazaniah must have died, for the seal is pronounced a very personal belonging which would have remained with him, even after death.

*Science News Letter, March 17, 1934*