

# WAR SERVICE OF THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

THE American Forestry Association determined when the United States entered the war to do all it possibly could to aid in the nationwide movement for victory and, as it felt particularly interested in the organization of the forestry and lumberjack regiment, it is perhaps not inappropriate to mention to the men for whom this issue of the AMERICAN FORESTRY magazine is made a souvenir edition, some of its activities.

It aided, through its Conservation Department, the National War Garden Commission organized in March, 1917, and conducted until June 1, 1919. This commission, conceived, directed and financed by Charles Lathrop Pack, president of the American Forestry Association, inspired the planting of war gardens on vacant lots and slacker land throughout the United States. It furnished instruction to individuals, it organized communities, it distributed literature, it—in a word—did everything worth doing to help raise food where none was raised before in order to help, as General Pershing expressed it, "to keep the food coming." Its work resulted in food of a value of over a billion dollars being raised by the war gardeners. It furnished equipment for a war garden at Camp Dix, New Jersey, and this garden inspired the planting of gardens at other camps of soldiers. Its plan of work was closely studied by the French, British and Canadian governments and some of its methods were successfully adopted by these governments. Its work was conducted from the offices of the American Forestry Association, in Washington.

The Association started a fund for the welfare and comfort of the forestry and lumberjack soldiers, as told in detail on another page.

In December, 1919, members of the Association raised a special fund and sent Secretary Percival S. Ridsdale to France, Belgium and Great Britain to study the forest losses of these countries. The result of the trip was an offer by the Association to provide American forest tree seed to help in reforesting the war-stricken forests of these countries. This offer was gratefully accepted, and an effort is now being made to secure the seed needed, partly by donations from states and partly by a fund which is now being raised.

The Association's magazine, AMERICAN FORESTRY, devoted a great deal of its space to articles and photographs about the effect of the war upon the forests of the United States, Canada, France, Belgium and Great Britain, and many more such articles are now in hand ready for publication.

Copies of AMERICAN FORESTRY Magazine were sent to the 20th Regiment in France and to the camps in the United States each month.

The Association is now aiding the Welfare Fund Committee to secure positions for lumbermen and foresters in War Service.

It has since the fall of 1918 earnestly urged the planting of Memorial Trees in tribute to those who gave their lives for their country or offered their lives in the Great War. Thousands of Memorial Trees have been planted and many thousands more will be planted next fall. The movement is spreading rapidly, and in addition to its fitness from the standpoint of memorial tributes it is also most serviceable in the cause of forestry by interesting thousands of people in trees.

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## "THE GREAT TREE MAKER"

From every section of the United States the American Forestry Association is getting reports of Memorial Tree planting and is registering these trees on its national honor roll. Georgetown University has dedicated fifty-four memorial trees at its 120th Commencement and marked them with the bronze marker designed by the Association. At San Francisco a Hero Grove was dedicated on Memorial Day and Cleveland on the same day dedicated an avenue of Liberty Oaks. Twenty schools in Cincinnati have planted Memorial Trees. The Daughters of the Confederacy are planting Memorial Trees, the Cordele, Georgia, Chapter being the first to register with the Association. The Daughters of the American Revolution are planting, too, the "Our Flag" Chapter, of Washington, D. C., being the first to report to the Association.

Rev. Francis E. Clark has sent a call to the Christian Endeavor Societies of the world to plant Memorial Trees. "Thus

come closer to the Great Tree Maker," says Dr. Clark in his call, which will have far reaching effect. The American Forestry Association will gladly send free instructions to any person or organization planting trees, and it has prepared a planting day program which is being widely used. These are but examples of how wide spread the call of the Association to plant Memorial Trees has become.

Next fall more extensive planting is being planned. In the next issue American Forestry will begin printing the honor roll of those for whom trees have been planted. Every member of the Association can help in this great work by taking the lead in tree planting in his community. Start plans for fall planting in your town now. Work for a Memorial Avenue of trees or for Memorial Trees as the setting for any form of memorial your town may be adopting. Inform the Association of progress made.