Commencement Thesis.

Kansas Forestry: Condition and Needs.

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Outline:

Kansas Forestry:
Condition and Needs

Introduction,
Present Conditions of the State
The Eastern Port,
The Central Port,
The Western Port,
Needs,
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Benefits as a Result.
Kansas Forestry: Condition and Needs.

Introduction.

Much has been written on the subject of Forestry, but very little that has been applied directly to the conditions and needs of our own State. The object of this thesis is to take up the conditions as we find them here, to see how they may be changed for the better, and what may be expected as a result.

Present Conditions of the State

One need be permitted to enjoy life in the State especi-
ially the western part, but a
short time to be able to realize
that this portion of the earth's
surface is greatly in need of
more trees.

The Eastern Part.

In the Eastern part of
the State, there is found, or there
has been found in the past, a
very liberal distribution of
forest trees. These are no
great tracts of woodland cov-
ering the whole country for
many miles, as there is in
many of the States; but in the
low lands along the rivers and
cracks there is much valuable
and beautiful timber. There is
perhaps a stream that can be
called a stream at all but what
has its belt of timber from a
few hundred feet in width to
miles.

The trees are not small, nearly
scrubby trees, but they are
Straight, tall, and handsome; indeed there is found here some of the finest wood. Here are tall stately elms, oaks, walnuts, hickories, and others that make up the principal part of the forest. But these are only a part of the numerous species that grow and thrive here. This proves to me the possibilities of forest and tree growth in this State. If, without the aid of may nature can produce such forests as this in the State, with the aid of more, it ought to produce such forests as any State might well be proud of.

The Central Port.

As we go West, this luxuriant tree growth gradually lessens. One hundred miles past the Eastern line we still find narrow strips of forest, but the width of these decreases, and more species that
are found along the border have disappeared. We note the absence of the shellbark hickory, the pecan, the redbud and others of minor importance.

We also note a great change in the country into other woods which can only be mentioned here. The winds seem to have increased, the cyclones are more frequent. Here, it is hotter, drier, the soil is baked and we begin to realize how great a lack a bock of forestry is to a country.

The Western Coat. We go another one hundred miles, and find a few scattered scrubby trees instead of the belts of woodland. Here we can notice - a few half dead, ugly cottonwoods, a few boxelder, struggling for existence. We hear in voices for the hickories, oak
and many others.

We find that they have given up the great struggle, which without the aid of man, is very difficult in this section. A few energetic persons have located these land and assisted nature, and, from the results of their efforts we may see some of the possibilities of tree growth when assisted.

But let us cross the next one hundred mile line, and we come to what might be called a treeless region. We find the hot winds, the scorching sun, the barren, sandy earth, and we look in vain for a shelter of trees, a spring, or a stream. Here and there are a few lovely trees, that with the aid of man have secured an existence.

Now we can truly realize the great benefits of the forests for timber, heat, to the eastern part of the State. We realize
what a great need there is a
county and we long for the
day when we may feel an
indication of a post office in that
part of the State.

This gives us a rapid
glance at the conditions of
the forests of the State. True,
it varies somewhat, as along
the Mississippi, the Arkansas and
the Medicine River, the forest
extends farther west, but we
have practically a depression,
approaching away of the forests
from the eastern to the west-
em part.

We cannot call the condi-
tions of the eastern part an
ideal one, we can see many
ways of improvement, many
welts in which the value could
greatly be increased, but as
considered in this respect to
the western part, we might
call it a paradise.
Needs.

We cannot think of this and realize the great need of more protest without wondering if there is not some way in which this condition can be improved. Yet, indeed, there are many ways in which the people of the State could only be brought to realize this need and persuaded to put forth a systematic, determined and persistent effort. We do not realize this need, many of us because of carelessness and indifference and many because of ignorance. Some, however, are conscious of these facts and put forth what effort they can to remedy the evil; but the number of such persons is so small comparatively that they find the work very difficult.
Methods of Operation.

The experiment station here has proved to us what can be done along this line. The College grounds are among the most beautiful places to be found anywhere.

West on the old College farm we find a young forest upon a sandy plain in Kansas that is as vigorous and beautiful as many we find in natural forest regions.

The trees found here are not merely of two or three varieties which are adapted to such places but are of many varieties: pines, pines, cedars, oaks, elms, tulip, osage orange and many others. Although this is well toward the central part of the State, we find that a forest is not due insufficiency. As we go east, we may expect much better results.
we go west we cannot hope for as much, but we can hope for returns that will more than repay us for our effort.

This question must be taken up, agitated, the people brought to realize this fact, and a movement toward this improvement begun. To a certain extent, we find an effort being put forth. The State Agricultural College has a course in horticulture and forestry, showing us the effects of proper and tree culture and methods of planting and taking care of the same. The Botany taught there and in other schools, colleges, and universities is also a great help. We find in the common schools the observance of Arbor Day thus giving early in life the idea of tree-planting and stewardship. All such a
there are a great help and should be encouraged and practical use made of the knowledge these obtained.

A great example can be set and is being set by the schools around the city. Every University, college and school we find beautifully ornamented grounds.

The cities are also doing a great work. We find rows of trees along the streets and in yards. However, cities are often negligent. Many parks are poorly taken care of, and many streets and yards are without trees. The city government can easily take in hand the planting of trees and cleaning up of debris, thus increasing the beautiful and removing the unsightly.

However, these are not the forests where we find the great need of tree planting.
and efforts toward beautifying. For this, we go to the field, around the houses, along the roads and see the farms.

As one rides across the prairie, many are the farms that we see with no orchard, no group of forest trees, but only a few tightly grouped, struggling trees. Along the road we seldom see a row of trees. Of course, there is danger in the eastern part of the State of clothing the ground and keeping it muddied and wet, but in the West and Central parts we need have no fear of this, and trees can be planted along the road to a good advantage.

As we go out see the farms, we look in vain for a young forest. In the Eastern part there is the timber land usual-ly, but as a general rule there is being ruthlessly cleared away to make way for-
cultivated crops, or perhaps simply for wood. In many cases the timber is being cut
from off a stony hillside which is unfit for anything else. More and more
beehives of this the rich soil
is being washed from the
fields, the abbeys are fill-
ing up and getting quil-ler,
spilling over flooding and every-
thing deplorably dry, more de-
plorable, and we notice the great
barrier of influences which
always follow the clearing
of forests. Some steps should
be taken to preserve these and
to encourage more planting.

Further West, we fail to find this natural timber-
land, but we should and must
see in the future several
acres of cultivated woodland
as well as a good orchard upon
every farm, a few acres
are of great value as a wind-
Trees may be planted to prevent washing and to enrich the soil. No farm can be a perfect one, no farmer is a wide-awake, successful one, unless we find this field of wood-land.

Over the State we find much waste land, many stony, steep hills, sand hills, swamps, very rough land etc. An effort should be made to utilize these places and this waste forest be converted into valuable forest land. If each school, each city, each farmer and individual in the State would realize its duty, and take a little pains, it could readily be seen if what great advantage it would be to the State.
increase in beauty such care would add to the State? I believe that it would have a
great influence over the hot
winds and the cyclones. The
air would be more moist in
the hot months of summer,
the earth would not be dry, hard
and baked. We would find it
moist, shady and cool and capa-
bale of sustaining life much
more easily than now. It
would prevent the washing
away of our sails, and would
bring much rich plants to grow
pours the great depths to which
the roots penetrate to the surface
and these make our soil
much richer.

Besides these benefits to
the soil and climate, we would
find it hard to enumerate the
uses to which the timber would
be to us. Not until one has
lived near a timberland can
he realize its great benefit. We
find it useful for facts as windbreaks, many trees bear edible fruits and the/number of timber about the farms and elsewhere are numerous.

Thus we find the condition, the needs and the results obtainable by proper methods. This gives just one idea of our duty to the State and the benefits that will result from doing our part. Let us then use our influence, opportunity and energy to bring the people of the State co to do his share and by doing our duty, we can change the grade old State from a barren prairie State of cyclones, grasshoppers and croakers to at State that will be second to none. We can not only make it a good place to live in but we can make it one of the best places to live in.

- End -