

THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY LOOKS
AT FUTURE WOOD REQUIREMENTS

by

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During the past 20 years the growth of the pulp, paper and paperboard industry has been very rapid, especially here in the South. From a small beginning in the middle 1930's it has grown by leaps and bounds into the large industry it is today.

I will not attempt to predict just what the future wood requirements for the pulpwood industry will be, but I will try to project from the information we have on the past and present situation, what it is likely to be in the future.

The production of paper and paper products has risen about 55% during the last 10 years. The amount of pulpwood used in this country increased during the same period from less than 17 (16.9) million cords to approximately 33 million cords. The industry produced a total of 29.9 million tons of paper and paperboard during the year of 1955. It is (was) expected that mill expansion and construction of new mills in 1956 will increase this production by an additional 1.6 million tons per year.

In 1956, in the south, at least 15 mills were busy expanding their manufacturing facilities. Eleven (11) new mills were listed for starting construction during 1956. Of these, seven (7) have definitely indicated their location here in the south; one (1) in South Carolina, four (4) in Alabama, and two (2) in Arkansas.

HISTORY

Pulpwood consumption in 1906 for the United States was 3,661,176 cords. The south produced 164,000 cords or approximately 4.5%. In 1931, the U. S. total was 6,722,766 cords. The south produced 1,750,000 cords or 26% of the total.

Now in 1955 the National production was 33,300,000 cords, of which the south produced approximately 19 million cords or about 60% of the total. You, are probably familiar with the figures just quoted. We use them to emphasize two things: (1) the tremendous increase in the production and consumption of pulpwood during the last 20 to 25 years and (2) the huge increase, percentage wise, of the total amount produced in the south.'

as low as possible if we expect to remain competitive. We must improve our practices in all phases of Forestry and find more efficient ways of manufacturing and handling the products of our mills.

If we do this the demand for pulpwood and other forest products looks extremely bright for the future.

The pulpwood industry is doing quite a bit of work in tree improvement. Some of the mills have their own men working on this in their own nurseries. The industry is cooperating with State and Federal agencies in Forest Genetics Programs throughout the south and the United States. We feel sure that these programs in tree improvement will result in faster growing trees of better quality and will help supply the ever increasing demand for pulpwood and other forest products.