46 CHESTNUT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Feb. 9, 1938

Dear Mr. Chief,

Would it be possible for you to give me a rough estimate of the commercial value of my wood-lot before reaching the business? I thought you might be able to do this just from your general knowledge of it. I want it for purposes of income tax, as I understand that the government is going to allow it to be counted as capital for 1938 — nothing to lower

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in Montana

any purpose made on the fallen timber this year, which will go into 1909 measure. If this estimate can be made through Mr. Hackett or anyone qualified, it will be satisfactory. I shall, of course, expect to pay for it in any case.

I judge that the salvage business is going on fairly satisfactorily. Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours
Olive Sims

February 18, 1939.

Miss Olive Simes,
46 Chestnut Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Miss Simes:

In response to your request I am very glad to give you my estimate of the damage caused by the hurricane of September 21, 1938 to your Towne and Williams Lots in Petersham.

I have been acquainted with this woodland property for about ten years, and it was under my supervision that a forest type map was made of it by the Harvard Forest in 1930. And about five years ago I supervised the extensive thinning and improvement operations which were carried on there. The Towne Lot, comprising some 65 acres, has always been considered one of the most densely stocked and valuable pine lots in the town, and I am sure you must have had numerous attractive offers of purchase from lumbermen.

Shortly after the hurricane, for purposes of supplying the Petersham Forest Cooperative Association with requested information on the amount of salvable timber, Mr. Raymond of the Harvard Forest made an ocular estimate and cruise of the down timber. The total volume of timber of merchantable size and quality thus arrived at was 1,194,000 board feet. This amount does not include material in young stands or any hardwood of such size or quality as to be useful only as cordwood.

Yesterday, in company with Messrs. Lutz and Raymond of the Harvard Forest staff, I examined the property and made estimates of the value of the timber both before and after the hurricane. I have set the total value before the hurricane, of only merchantable timber and

cordwood, at $7,000.00, which I consider a very conservative figure,-- one which is considerably less than the assessed valuation.

The hurricane resulted in the complete blowdown of all of the larger timber, including at least nine-tenths of the area supporting stands which a lumberman would consider merchantable and a good logging chance. No stand completely escaped. Under the salvage plan offered by the Northeastern Timber Salvage Administration of the Federal Government and through your membership in the Petersham Forest Cooperative Association, Inc. the mechantable timber blown down by the hurricane is now in the process of being removed. According to the estimate made by the Manager of the Association this week not more than 1,000,000 board feet can be salvaged and sold. However, experience in salvaging the down timber on a number of properties has shown, so I have just been informed by the local salvage administrator for the Government, that estimates based on pre-hurricane conditions should be cut in half. This shrinkage is due to breakage, a log scale based on square-edged sawing, the nonacceptance of small or crooked logs and deductions for defects in the logs which are accepted. I should personally set the number of board feet salvable at 800,000, and the expectable net stumpage value at $2.00 per M,-- a total of $1,600.00. I do not anticipate that any other kinds of material can be salvaged. With tens of thousands of cords of hardwood blown down and a very limited market for cordwood, no income from this source appears possible.

Approximately one-half of the trees remain standing in the young stands, especially hardwoods, but they have very little value in themselves, especially in view of all the down timber around them and the extreme fire hazard. At the most, the total present value of these partially destroyed young stands i [illegible].00.

To sum up, I have set the value of the property, exclusive of the land value, as of before the hurricane at $7,000.00, and after the hurricane at $2,000.00, making a loss of $5,000.00.

Very sincerely yours,

A. C. Cline
Assistant Director

46 CHESTNUT STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Feb. 26, 1939

Dear Mrs. Cline,

I am very grateful to you for the time & great pains at this very busy time to give me such a complete record of the values of my word for "past, present & future." It was exactly what I wanted. Will you please let me know what I owe you on the School for this service.

I was in Pittsburgh last week, the work & business seemed to me the morning quite past. I should say Mrs. Hackett had a fine set of men there. Of the two leads from Worcester the

hope said the better!

Sincerely yours

Olive Simms