

COMMENTS ON THE HARVARD FOREST

From P. W. Barr, Chief of Research, British Columbia Forestry Branch, January 22, 1928:

"As one who is interested primarily in the practice of forestry in the woods, may I assure you that your Forest offers much more in the way of instruction and inspiration than any place I have visited."

From L. L. Bishop, Forest Supervisor, Allegheny National Forest, U. S. Forest Service, October 18, 1927:

"After so long a time I am going to write you and express my appreciation of your many courtesies during the two very pleasant and profitable days I spent on the Harvard Forest some weeks ago. I want you to know that I count those days as the most profitable, from a forestry standpoint, that I have ever spent."

From the "Blister Rust News" of the Department of Agriculture, 1928:

"Asked what he considered the most instructive example of forestry in America, Mr. von Maltzahn (of the Mecklenburg Forest Service) stated that he was most impressed by the Harvard Forest at Petersham, Mass., and that every German forester might be able to learn in this forest. He particularly noted that Dr. Fisher is closely studying the ecological conditions and basing his management plans on 'working with nature'. He was much impressed by his observations on the growth and management of white pine in the New England states and believes that this species is of greater forestry importance for Germany than has been generally considered to be the case in recent years by German foresters."

From R. M. Evans, Assistant Forester, Eastern District, in charge of Forest Management for the U. S. Forest Service, August 14, 1927:

"I cannot resist thanking you once more for the interesting and profitable two days at Petersham. They were thought and discussion stimulating days, for you had much that was new to show us."

"Your policy of aiding rather than violating nature appealed to us as sound; but if you are right in your methods of handling hardwood and mixed hardwood and softwood stands (and you had the evidence to prove your points) then we are wrong in a lot we have done. You may rest assured that we are going to give your ideas a trial, making such adaptations as may seem necessary to fit north woods and Virginia conditions."

From the "Forest Worker" of the U. S. Forest Service, May 1928, an article "What a German Forester Can Learn in America", by H. F. von Maltzahn, Mecklenburg States Service:

"What do we European foresters want to learn when we come to America?

"We are not looking for applied silviculture. Even if we were, I only need to mention one word: Petersham!"

From W. B. Greeley, Chief Forester of the U. S. Forest Service, October 16, 1924:

"The Harvard Forest is such a striking example of good utilization, good forestry, and good business (perhaps the three are indispensable to each other) that I know of no better example to hold up before the business men who will attend this conference."

From W. B. Greeley, Chief Forester of the U. S. Forest Service, April 21, 1928:

"The two days at Petersham last August stand out as red letter events for many reasons, among them that I felt closer on that occasion to native American silviculture than at any other time in my life."

From Charles H. Keith, President of the New England Box Company, Greenfield, Mass., June 27, 1924:

"I can say so far as the New England Box Company is concerned that the research work which is being done (at the Harvard Forest) and which no individual can afford to do, is going to have a very important place in the reproduction of timber for New England. We are convinced of its practicability because it has made profits for us."

"Professor Fisher is spending a good deal of time to improve the marketing of Forest Products and has demonstrated to us a possible saving of \$30,000.00 a year in the lumber being used by us to make boxes. At the Harvard Forest they show you results and not theory. Of course they haven't had enough money to carry on all of the research work and to guard their records as should be done. They are making constant progress in converting lumber men and manufacturers to the value of the quality of the service they render."

From the "Nature Magazine" for July 1927, an article, "Show Windows of Forestry" by Tom Gill:

"The Harvard Forest at Petersham is a perfect forest laboratory, the most interesting in the United States."

From the "Nature Magazine" for November 1925, an article, "The Harvard Forest, a Two-Thousand Acre Textbook" by Tom Gill:

"The reasons that made the Harvard Forest unique among the timber tracts of the United States are almost as interesting as the Forest itself. . . .

"Even up to a comparatively few years ago the methods involved in actually growing and maintaining timber crops had been scantily developed in this country, and to find an organized forest where the various methods of silviculture were in successful operation it was necessary to go to the old world. It is because today the Harvard Forest is very close to that unique condition that it so admirably serves as a model forest to demonstrate the practice of forestry."

From the "New England Homestead" for August 22, 1925, an editorial, "Farm Forestry Made Easy":

"Experience in the Harvard Forest and the facts it has proven in field and laboratory give to the results actually achieved by Director Fisher and his co-workers a value that is as intensively practical as it is thoroughly scientific. Because of this truth, because the lessons learned here are just beginning to be applied by farmers and lumbermen throughout New England, and because these easy methods mean profits instead of loss from waste lands, a study of Harvard Forest results has been made by our President, Herbert Myrick, and will be featured in The Homestead throughout the coming winter in time to be of most seasonable interest - a series of stories and pictures of human interest and much practical value.

". . . how the farmer's cut-over land or his woodlot should be treated to grow a similar valuable tree crop in the shortest possible time with least labor and smallest expense . . . is the problem that every farmer wants to solve on his own woodlot, brush lot or forest. The Homestead finds that just this intensively practical problem has been worked out in the Harvard Forest by methods that are as simple as A B C."

From J. G. Peters, Assistant Chief of the Public Relations Branch of the U. S. Forest Service, June 8, 1927:

"It has been a mighty long time, Tillotson, Evans and I all agreed, since we have spent a more interesting and helpful day in forestry than the one you were good enough recently to give us on the personally conducted tour of the Harvard Forest. It was really a wonderful day, full of inspiration."

From Richard S. Schonland, forester, of South Africa, December 28, 1927:

"I really don't think that I was ever able to collect so much information in so short a time. As it does most other people, the Harvard Forest taught me a very great deal."

From the "Service Bulletin" of the U. S. Forest Service for May 4, 1925, an article, "The School of the Woods" by Ward Shepard, Assistant Chief of the Public Relations Branch of the U. S. Forest Service:

"Every forester in the United States ought to visit the Harvard Forest to see the possibilities not merely of growing timber but of forestry as a craft, an art, a satisfying pursuit."

From Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, October 14, 1924:

"It will be gratifying to me and helpful to the Conference if you will consent to speak on 'Close Utilization in New England'. Most of the afternoon talks will be from manufacturers. The distinguished achievements of the Harvard Forest, both in forestry and in close utilization, would however add a unique and interesting feature to the program."

From the "Yale Forest News" for April 1926:

"This record of continuity in intensive silvicultural practice is probably unequalled in America and it is to the cumulative results of this management that Fisher's contribution to forestry owes its great value."

"The Harvard Forest gives to the profession that which is most needed now and which will continue to be our most urgent requirement for decades to come - a demonstration area where the actual working out of forestry practice as a successful business venture can be studied at first hand without having to visit a foreign country to convince ourselves that it can be done. Fisher represents the new idea in America, which must supplant the old pioneer psychology of prodigal waste."

From E. N. Munns, Chief, Division of Silvics, U. S. Forest Service,
June 16, 1934:

"Professor Fisher has left his imprint upon forestry in a manner which time will not be able to erase. His demonstration to the Harvard Forest of the practical possibilities of forestry, his influence upon forest thought in the Northeast and his quiet but persistent emphasis upon silviculture have earned for him a place in the hearts of all true foresters."

From Charles Lathrop Pack, President, American Tree Association,
June 18, 1934:

"I thought very highly of our mutual friend, Professor Fisher... and he, with you, had built up the Harvard Forest to a position where it is, I believe, the best demonstration of this kind of thing in the whole of the United States."

From J. S. Ferguson, Professor of Forestry, Pennsylvania State
College, June 19, 1934:

"Professor Fisher was one of the pioneers in American forestry and in American forestry education. There are two things which I call to mind that he did that have had great influence on the development of forestry education. The first was to take the Harvard Forest School to the woods. This plan must be given consideration in the development of forestry education in the future. The second was his plan for the intensive study and development of a small demonstration and experimental forest as a place for the training of his students in field methods. Already these ideas are being adopted by other forest schools. Forestry in America is the better for his efforts."

From D. S. Jeffers, Acting Dean, College of Forestry, University
of Washington, June 20, 1934:

"One of the pioneers of forestry is gone. He left his impress upon our literature, our curriculum of study, and our research program, in a way permitted to few men. Undoubtedly he laid the foundation broad and firm so that the Harvard Forest program can go ahead. It must ever be a monument to his far sightedness."

From Carlile P. Winslow, Director, Forest Products Laboratory,
U. S. Forest Service, June 20, 1934:

"Dick Fisher's untimely death is a great loss to forestry and to the very constructive and interesting work that he had built up on the Harvard Forest."

From L. G. Romell, Swedish forester, former Professor at Cornell, July 10,
1934:

"It is with very deep regret that I learn about Prof. Fisher's sudden death. Altho I was not fortunate enough to get very thoroughly acquainted with him or to work together with him, I had the great pleasure to spend a couple of days in the Harvard Forest with him, discussing problems which interested us in common. From that visit I brought back not only a strong impression of a research center with unusual possibilities but also, and quite particularly, a most favorable impression of its Director. In my opinion, he had much more of that biological feel for and with his forest than is usual, with American foresters in particular. This, to my mind, is a very essential thing for a silviculturist and forest ecologist, so essential indeed that only men gifted with that feel can be expected to show the way to new and truer methods in silviculture."