

TO SELECT PLANTING SITES

ASSISTANT CHIEF LEAVES FOR EPHRAIM AND SALINA.

Seedlings From Wasatch Nursery in Big Cottonwood Canyon Will Be Obtained.

Lincoln Crowell, assistant chief of the section of planting, district forest service, left today for Ephraim and Salina, Utah, where he will select sites for planting on the Fish Lake and Manti forests. The planting will commence in the spring with seedlings from the Wasatch nursery in Big Cottonwood canyon, near Salt Lake.

James M. Fetherolf, district chief of planting, states that Mr. Crowell's work at this time will consist largely in making a careful examination of the more favorable of the denuded areas in the Fish Lake and Manti forests and determining where the initial planting shall take place.

"The forest service has a very promising nursery up there in Big Cottonwood canyon now," said Mr. Fetherolf, today, "and its effectiveness will be constantly increased. It was established in 1905, and embraces about six acres of excellent land. We have about 3,000,000 plants now growing in beds there, including yellow pine, Douglas fir, or red pine, Lodge pole pine, Engelman spruce and several other species to be used in experimental work.

"There are in the neighborhood of 35,000 transplants, or plants ready for transplanting in the field, now on hand at the nursery for the spring work. If you have never seen the start of a national forest, it will be interesting to know that the seedlings are grown first under somewhat crowded conditions, there being about 400 to the square foot. In a year's time they are about two inches high and are then transferred to more spacious quarters, being set out in drills one and a quarter inches apart. The drills or rows are spaced about six inches. Two years more steady growth is necessary before they may be termed transplants and are ready for transfer to the denuded areas where a forest will some time grow.

"Next year we expect to have from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 transplants on hand and it is the intention to provide an additional million each succeeding year. These figures are large, but the work to be done is also large. Little more than 50 per cent of the forestable area in the state is today occupied by timber, and at the rate of 5,000,000 trees planted per year it is probably safe to say that it would take a hundred years to plant the denuded areas in this single district which are capable of sustaining forest growth.

"It is a wonderfully interesting subject—this planting of humble seedlings which a hundred years from now will have grown to be mighty forests, protecting the invaluable watersheds of the country. Civilization in the west depends absolutely upon it as long as irrigation is the basis of production."

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