

Naturalist Fears Cedar End Is Near

Oregon Journal Jan 2 - 1938

Port Orford cedar, recognized by many as the most beautiful evergreen tree in Oregon, is making its "last stand," according to William L. Finley, well known naturalist, who points out that United States forest service records show that little over 1,000,000,000 board feet of this native timber remain. The striking fact is, according to Finley, that this tree grows only in a small area in the Pacific Coast region of Southern Oregon and Northern California.

To warn the public of the need for conserving the last stands of this most valuable tree, the January issue of Nature Magazine published an article written by Carl R. Dion in which he stated that as early as 1866 Port Orford cedar was used in the construction of San Francisco bay ferry boats. Logging did not begin in earnest until about 1884. By 1925, the total production of this cedar was 90,000,000 board feet a year, mainly lumber; but 37,000,000 feet of this were squared logs and veneer stock. During the past year, about 65,000,000 feet were cut.

Japan has been the greatest foreign consumer of Port Orford cedar. Squared logs and timber have for years been shipped across the ocean and manufactured by low-standard labor into wooden novelties. These are then returned to the United States, where they are sold for less than the cost of manufacturing the same product in Oregon.

"The future of this industry should be given more consideration by the people of Oregon," warns Finley. "From 1920 to 1929, the total cut was about 850,000,000 board feet in this state. Only 31 per cent. of the re-

maining stand is on public lands. In some of these areas, no control of the cutting is exercised. The United States forest service owns about 16 per cent. of the remaining Port Orfords. It realizes that the life of this cutting is very limited, since there is no hope that any privately owned tracts will be preserved. This is a forestry product that should be put on a sustained yield basis, which is more needed here than in any other section of our country.

"This plan is difficult to carry out because industries using Port Orford cedar naturally bring as much pressure as possible to increase the cutting. Individuals and organizations interested in conserving our valuable resources should take some action.

"Port Orford cedar does not grow in separate stands, and rarely forms more than 30 per cent. of the forest growth where it is found under primeval conditions. It is interspersed with other trees such as the Douglas fir, and grows to a height of 135 to 180 feet. These old trees are from four to seven feet in diameter, and are from five hundred years old.

"A pleasant ginger-like aroma persists in this wood long after it has been cut. It is easily cut, and its measurements, and can read the action of acid. Its use, therefore, is valuable in batteries as well as in other applications. It is highly resistant to decay. Tannin blinds are made almost entirely of Port Orford cedar, and this is so many other commercial uses for the wood that a definite arrangement for its conservation is in sight unless some satisfactory arrangement for its conservation be decided upon."

Wild Life To Be Shown At Bushnell

Wm. L. Finley
Hunts with Lens
Rather Than Gun

Shooting with camera rather than with gun, William L. Finley has made an intensive study, and an accurate record of wild life and little-known animals who have seldom if ever been photographed before.

Mr. Finley will show his movie the Bushnell Memorial this Friday evening, at 8:15. This is the fifth event of the Bushnell Motion Picture and Lecture course.

In this, his newest film lecture, Mr. Finley will present some of the most spectacular pictures of wild life ever made. "The Big Game Trade" is an account of trailing pronghorns, caribou, mountain sheep, and bear in the wilderness areas of British Columbia and Alaska,

stalking mountain goats, elk, moose and mule deer in the Rockies, shooting pronghorns or American antelope with a shutter, and getting personal with mountain lions in the wilder sections of Arizona and New Mexico.

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WILLIAM L. FINLAY, noted naturalist, Bushnell Memorial lecturer Friday night, concealed in an "artificial" hide, hunted for rare animals.