

FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

On October 7 conference members participated in a field trip.^{1/} Visited were the Michigan Conservation Department's new Southern Michigan Nursery and three of the University of Michigan's demonstration and research forests.

Southern Michigan Nursery.--The newly-developed nursery in southern Michigan is one of four operated by the Conservation Department. Its major advantages are that (1) it will permit lifting nursery stock early enough in the spring so that farmers can do their tree planting before the press of the regular farm work commences, and (2) it will make it possible to produce some of the species of trees desired for wildlife plantings. When the nursery is in full operation it will produce 10 million to 12 million trees annually. At the present time, the Department is using inmate labor from a nearby honor prison camp.

Stinchfield Woods.--This tract of 840 acres consists of both native oak woodland and extensive areas of old fields now planted to various conifers. White pine, Norway spruce, and Austrian pine have been the most successful planted species. A major point of interest here was the comparative development of Scotch pine of Bavarian, Norwegian, and Riga origins planted in 1930 and 1933.

Newcomb Tract.--This tract of 206 acres across the Huron River to the east of the Stinchfield Woods tract, occupies a similar site. The School of Natural Resources maintains a small experimental nursery at the residence on the tract and is utilizing the large field across the road for provenience trials. Of primary interest here were nursery beds including 24 proveniences of European larch and 1 each of Japanese and Dunkeld larches, and a field planting of 3 sources of European and 1 source of Japanese larch.

Saginaw Forest.--Acquired in 1903, this 80-acre tract near Ann Arbor has now been largely planted. A wide variety of both conifer and hardwood plantations dating from 1904 have been managed intensively with thinnings, plot measurement, and photographs at 5-year intervals. Of special interest here was the comparative development of many tree species including some of the oldest successful hardwood plantations in this region.

1/ Arranged by F. J. Hodge, in charge of nurseries and planting in the Forestry Division, Michigan Conservation Department, and S. H. Spurr, Professor of Silviculture, School of Conservation, University of Michigan.