

22. REPORT ON THE FOREST GENETICS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Vertrees Young, Executive Vice-President  
Gaylord Container Corporation, Bogalusa, La.

The Forest Genetics Research Foundation is a non-profit corporation established to stimulate the development of forest tree improvement in the United States. It was incorporated in 1951 under the laws of California. Among those active in its formation were the late Dr. Ernest B. Babcock, Professor Emeritus of Genetics at the University of California, James G. Eddy, founder of the Institute of Forest Genetics at Placerville, and Mr. Stephen N. Wyckoff, its present Executive Vice-President. Numbered among its Southern Directors are the following:

Erle Cocke, President  
The Fulton National Bank, Atlanta, Georgia

Walter J. Damtoft  
The Champion Paper and Fibre Company

E. L. Kurth  
Angelina County Lumber Company

J. E. McCaffrey  
International Paper Company

Julian F. McGowin  
W. T. Smith Lumber Company

G. G. Ware, President  
The First National Bank of Leesburg, Leesburg, Florida

P. F. Watzek  
Crossett Lumber Company

Vertrees Young  
Gaylord Container Corporation

Other directors include men prominent in business, education, and research in the field of forest genetics, among them Scott S. Pauley, our moderator at this morning's meeting.

In the course of an extensive country-wide trip during the early part of this year, which included visits to many of the projects now underway in the field of forest tree improvement, Mr. Wyckoff found that a majority of the technical workers engaged in these projects indicated a need for special studies and research in forest tree physiology, cytology and genetics to provide information required in the

---

1/ Presented in lieu of the scheduled report by Stephen N. Wyckoff, who was prevented by illness from attending the Conference.

conduct of these projects. The nature of these studies is such that each could be conducted at one place, at material saving of money and time, with application of results to local conditions to be developed through local, secondary tests. Accordingly, the Foundation proposes to make grants-in-aid to institutes and carry through studies of this kind.

Realizing that the nation-wide development of forest tree improvement is best served by the orderly development of regional programs, the Foundation will make grants-in-aid to regional projects of a technical nature, that are in need of financial aid and that fall clearly within the scope of the regional programs.

It is also recognized that the training of professional men in the skills required to conduct this work requires (1) institutions capable of offering such training, and (2) the reasonable assurance of sustained interest and continuous financial backing for such research, so that men of the proper calibre will feel warranted and reasonably secure in preparing themselves for work in this field.

The Foundation accordingly proposes to assist in this phase of the program, especially with doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships to specially selected individuals for special training in advanced forest genetics and related disciplines.

The ability to carry through the proposed program is of course dependent on the degree of financial support received by the Foundation. A modest start has already been made and some funds have been allocated to various projects. Representations have also been made to "Resources for the Future" for funds to support the work, with the final outcome not yet definitely established.

Speaking as a member of the wood using industries and as such a recipient of numbers of requests for support of this and that project or institution, there would seem to be a rather definite need for an organization which might be the recipient of available funds, with the knowledge of the work that needs to be done, and the agencies capable of doing it, so that the funds in turn might be redistributed so as to avoid unnecessary or undesirable duplication of effort and at the same time, afford support to important phases that might otherwise be overlooked. Few of us in industry are so fully informed as to all that is being done, or that needs to be done, as to be in a position to make the wisest decisions in this new and suddenly very popular field of endeavor.