

FOREST BANKRUPTCY IN AMERICA, Each State's Own Story, by LIEUTENANT COLONEL
GEORGE P. AHERN. THE GREEN LAMP LEAGUE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

The author of this book has performed a great service to America. In the past we have had various accounts of the tremendous loss and waste of American forests, brought about by reckless greed, shielded by public indifference and private propaganda. Americans have behaved in the past like hogs in the potato patch, destroying the wild life, fouling the streams, getting the mines, wasting the oil, exhausting the soil, and destroying the forests like depraved children, until vast areas of this once rich continent have been reduced to what are practically deserts. All this is an old story, amply documented in technical reports. But this book is different. In the first place it is thoroughly up to date. It is written in plain English which any man can understand. It sets forth the devastation of American forests, State by State, so that every citizen can see at a glance how rapidly his patrimony is being swept away to enrich a few lumbermen, ninety-five percent of whom make no effort to reforest the areas which they are rapidly stripping of timber. This has gone on almost unchecked because trees have no voted. Unless something is done quickly to control lumbermen, American voters will soon have no trees. This book puts the facts in the hands of every user of wood, that is to say, in the hands of every American. If the voters persist in their indifference the cost of wood products must mount until the cost of every table, chair, house, book, becomes prohibitive, for wood cannot be hauled great distances without huge expense.

Alone of civilized nations, America has ignored the problem. Every European nation has long since established government control of lumbering and has adopted a policy of adequate reforestation. Even little Japan, though hardly larger than California, plants twice as many trees each year as the whole United States. Before long, forest fires, neglect, and waste must strip this