

from insignificant proportions to a cut of over 1,000,000,000 feet annually, with a revenue to the Treasury of approximately \$3,000,000. Both large and small operators have established their business, depending on the national forests for their raw material in the form of logs. A requirement that the timber be used within the State or Territory where grown would be disastrous to these business enterprises and would very largely destroy the present use of the timber resource on the national forests.

The present unsatisfactory situation was illustrated during the debate on the agricultural appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, during which a point of order was made against the provision authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to permit the exportation of national-forest timber from the State or Territory where grown. The Chair sustained this point of order after pointing out that a temporary provision in a previous appropriation act does not free such a provision from being subject to a point of order as legislation in an appropriation bill. In the act mentioned, however, the authorization was restored in the Senate.

This department believes that permanent legislation to replace the prohibition in the act of June 4, 1897, is very desirable and necessary as a safeguard to the business enterprises based on the logging of national-forest timber.

In its administration of the national forests this department has been scrupulous to protect the future supply of the local residents. The supply of timber for local use is safeguarded not only by considering the present available volume but also, where necessary, by refusing to make sales which involve cutting at a rate faster than can be permanently supported by the growth of timber. So far as the national forests are concerned, therefore, this bill puts into law a policy for the protection of local supplies which this department has followed consistently for 20 years, and at the same time provides for the sale and utilization of the marketable excess.

The public lands in Alaska are under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior, and I assume that his opinion will be requested in regard to the provisions of the bill which deal with those lands. The national forests in Alaska would be affected by the enactment of this bill like those elsewhere,