

that some who were invited accepted while others declined. As for the personal opinions of the members regarding Ireland, *The Nation* in most cases does not know them and will make no effort to ascertain what they are.

It is not proposed that the Committee shall itself conduct the investigation. With a body of 150 members such a course would be impracticable. The first function of the Committee is the choice of a Commission of not exceeding seven members, which will make the inquiry; and the ballots for that purpose are now being sent in. Each member of the Committee will exercise in the balloting precisely the same weight as any other. It is hoped that the choice of the Commission will be completed by the time this issue of *The Nation* reaches its readers.

In preparation for the meeting of the Commission a list of outrages in Ireland is being prepared, and a number of important witnesses have been invited to come to this country and testify. Other important witnesses will continue to be summoned until the Commission begins its sessions. Once the Commission is ready to take up its duties, however, the direct connection of *The Nation* with the inquiry will cease, and the Commission will prosecute its investigation in any way and to any extent that it may deem proper.

*The Nation* has repeatedly stated that the proposed investigation does not extend to a consideration of any political question, but is limited to the determination of the facts and the fixing of responsibility in the matter of alleged atrocities in Ireland. It has incorporated the statement in the invitation which members of the Committee of One Hundred have accepted, and the same statement will be made to the Commission. There is no political purpose in the investigation, and the public may rest assured that the Commission will carry on its inquiry regardless of the individuals, factions, or parties that may be affected by it. For the first time since trouble between England and Ireland began, an opportunity is now to be afforded to all persons and parties who have knowledge of outrages in Ireland, by whomsoever perpetrated, to testify to the facts before an impartial body having no political connection with the countries or peoples that are in turmoil, and governed by no other purpose than that of arriving at the truth regarding the alleged acts.

Since the last issue of *The Nation* appeared, an important contribution to the progress of the investigation has been received in the form of a statement authorized by Arthur Henderson, George Lansbury, Robert Smillie, C. T. Cramp, Robert Williams, and W. C. Anderson, members of the British Labor Party, "strongly deprecating Irish outrages and more strongly deprecating reprisals," declaring an "independent inquiry advisable," and expressing "full sympathy" with *The Nation's* proposal, but urging that the inquiry, in order to be complete, should take place in Ireland. In reply the editors of *The Nation*, while expressing their grateful appreciation of the sympathetic support accorded to the undertaking, have pointed out that the proposed investigation must go on as planned, in the confident expectation that neither from the British Government nor from any other source was opposition or impediment to be anticipated, and that only in the event of an incomplete result here should the question of continuing the investigation further in Ireland be considered. A full account of the steps which have been taken in the organization of the Committee and the Commission has been sent to Mr. Henderson and his asso-

ciates, and it is believed that their cooperation, so far as cooperation is possible at this time, may be counted upon. In pursuance of the same policy of perfect frankness and impartiality, full accounts of the work and purposes of the Committee have also been sent to Sir Auckland Geddes and President De Valera.

The following names are to be added to the lists of members of the Committee of One Hundred already published in *The Nation*:

His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Baltimore, Md.; the Rt. Rev. James Atkins, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Nashville, Tenn.; Mary Austin, New York City; Abraham Baroff, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, New York City; Mayor Martin Behrman, New Orleans, La.; the Rt. Rev. E. Thomas Demby, Protestant Episcopal Suffragan Bishop of Arkansas, Little Rock; Clemens J. France, Seattle, Wash.; Zona Gale, Portage, Wis.; William Hard, Washington, D. C.; the Rt. Rev. R. L. Harris, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Marquette, Mich.; Mayor John F. Hylan, New York City; John S. Leahy, St. Louis, Mo.; Bertha H. Mailly, Rand School of Social Science, New York City; Basil M. Manly, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Katherine M. Meserole, Bellport, L. I.; the Rt. Rev. H. C. Morrison, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South Leesburg, Fla.; the Rt. Rev. Thomas Nicholson, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago, Ill.; Edward N. Nockels of the *New Majority*, Chicago, Ill.; the Rt. Rev. Charles Tyler Olmstead, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Central New York, Utica; the Rt. Rev. E. L. Parsons, Protestant Episcopal Bishop Coadjutor of California, San Francisco; J. C. Skemp, International Union of Painters and Decorators, Lafayette, Indiana; William H. Johnston, President International Machinists' Union, Washington, D. C.; Archbishop James J. Keane, Dubuque, Iowa; the Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor, Bishop of Newark, N. J.; J. H. Walker, President Illinois State Federation of Labor, Springfield; William J. Mulligan, Chairman Knights of Columbus Committee on War Activities.

## The Old Key-Maker

By LESLIE NELSON JENNINGS

The old Key-maker took his file and drew  
Its edge across the metal. "This," he said,  
"Fits a dark door I never once passed through,  
For all I keep the lock." He shook his head,  
And gave his vise another turn. "I make  
This one to please a fool who offered me  
His hoped-for immortality to take—  
Shaped like a woman's lips, this little key!

"How can I serve you? Is it you would gaze  
Into the secret garden where is grown  
Tomorrow's rose; or fain of Yesterday's  
Lost magic, would you wander back alone?"  
But I had come there just to watch a while  
The old Key-maker bend above his file.

## Redwoods

By ALICE CORBIN

Where are the giants  
Who could top your boughs,  
O tall Sequoia tree?  
Under your shade  
We faint, and cry for sun.

## Squandering Our Heritage

By GIFFORD PINCHOT

THE people of these United States are the most wasteful in the world—wasteful in living, wasteful in manufacturing, and wasteful in their failure to conserve our natural resources. Ever since the white man set foot upon American soil he has been destroying forests and making no effective provision for their renewal. The early settlements were built chiefly in the Eastern valleys, which were covered with unbroken stands of hardwood forest. In these valleys the early pioneers found the best agricultural land, which they had to clear in order to make it available for farming purposes—a practice which became so general that it was accepted as normal and necessary. As a result we have today almost endless miles of barren mountain slopes which are producing no crop of any value. Of the 822,000,000 original acres—matchless miles of virgin forest—only 137,000,000 now remain, and our total forest area, good, bad, and indifferent, amounts to but little more than half of what we once had—463,000,000 acres to be exact. Of these 137,000,000 are still virgin forest; 112,000,000 are of second growth, saw timber size; 133,000,000 are also of second growth, but below saw timber size; and 81,000,000 have been cut over without restocking. This shows the deplorable condition of what we have left. The aggregate area of this 81,000,000 acre desert is equivalent to the combined forest areas of Germany, Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal. And this is not the whole story of our unproductive forest land, for there is in addition an enormous area upon which the growth of real timber is so small in amount and so inferior in quality that its commercial value is negligible.

Then another enormous difficulty is that the source of raw material for the wood-using industries has shifted until the distance between markets and forests is now in many cases so great as to make shipping prohibitive, or at least unduly costly and uncertain because of an unsettled labor situation, inadequate railroad facilities, and congested shipping conditions.

The real significance of the present forest situation may be set forth most vividly by considering for a moment the present condition of the newsprint industry. The beginning was in 1840 when Keller patented his process in Germany for a wood-pulp grinding machine. The process was not, however, placed upon a commercial basis until 1854, and it was introduced into the United States by Warner Miller as late as 1866. Since then the growth of the industry in America has been prodigious. Within a half century it has developed from practically nothing until in 1900 two million cords were consumed and six million in 1919. The amount of pulpwood used annually if stacked upon an acre would make a solid pile over four miles high.

The estimated value of the paper products derived from pulp is at present about \$780,000,000, made up according to the War Industries Board as follows: newsprint papers, \$136,000,000; book paper, \$125,000,000; paper boards, \$156,000,000; fine writing paper, \$142,000,000; wrapping paper, \$89,000,000, and all other miscellaneous paper, \$132,000,000. The annual per capita consumption of newsprint is now at least 33 pounds, of all kinds of paper about 100 pounds, and there is no basis for assuming that it will be materially

less in the near future. Our country was self-supporting in newsprint as late as 1909—a decade later we were dependent upon foreign supplies to the extent of two-thirds of our newsprint or the raw material from which it is manufactured. It seems to be true that the present newsprint shortage goes back fundamentally to overcentralization of the industry during its formative period, and to overcutting and neglect of the pulp-producing lands of the Northeast and the Lake States. As late as 1904, for example, most of the Wisconsin pulp mills found their supplies within the State. About ten years later it became necessary for the same mills to procure considerable quantities of wood from a distance of 700 to 750 miles and some wood is now being shipped to the Wisconsin mills from a distance of 1,000 to 1,200 miles. Furthermore, it is clear that in the not distant future they must go farther yet. The lumber industry is necessarily and decidedly migratory. It must move from place to place, always following the supply of raw material. But the economic conditions of the pulp industry are different. There the initial investment is so heavy that it prohibits a migratory existence, and requires the transportation of raw materials from remote regions.

Forest depletion in America has reached a critical stage, which is, unfortunately, not realized by the public in general. People still think that conditions can be remedied in a few months—an entirely incorrect and untenable point of view. There appears to be little hope of relieving our newsprint and other paper shortage by any possible increase of importation. The pulpwood resources of Canada have been grossly overestimated, and the utmost possible importations from Europe will do little more than temporarily alleviate the existing situation. There is greater hope in the development of untouched native supplies—immense supplies in the national forests of the West which are still almost wholly undeveloped. The Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska has about seventy billion board feet of material suitable for pulpwood in a narrow belt along the coast with adequate waterpower and excellent sites available for the location of mills. But the forests of the West and Alaska cannot supply all the demands of the future. Neither would it be wise, even if it were possible, to localize the industry in the West and Alaska. Increased production on the severely cut and continuously burned lands of the East will not only prolong the life of the existing mills but help stabilize the industry by restoring our endless mountain waste to productivity. Idle mountain land has no place in a well-balanced economic system. It is an economic crime to maintain unproductive wastes when—if handled properly—the cut-over forest lands would yield a continuous flow of products to benefit us and future generations.

The first step in the restoration of these profligate wastes is the stopping of forest fires, which are the most formidable foe of our forests. It is our business, as well as our civic duty, to give our forests adequate protection and provide for a systematic and scientific renewal of a forest growth on all soil mainly valuable for growing trees. Increased production is, however, not a solution unless it stop the stupid waste of raw material in the process of manufacture.

Shortage and the high price of wood and woodpulp affect the whole nation. The restoration of thrifty forests to our unproductive hillsides is the only thoroughgoing remedy for a scarcity which is already serious and may soon become critical. We must have wood, and since we can get it nowhere else, we must grow it at home.