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IMPORTANCE OF FORESTRY.

Mr. H. H. Corbin (Forest Adviser to the Government and Lecturer in Forestry at the University of Adelaide) gave an interesting lecture at the North Terrace Institute on Monday night on "Forestry," under the auspices of the A.N.A. Mr. H. W. Emslie (President) occupied the chair. The lecturer said there was a vital necessity for a very vigorous policy in forestry matters for South Australia and for the Commonwealth. Regarding the timber supply, the country was thrown much on its own resources, which were at present lamentably weak. The prevailing conditions in the way of supply and demand in relation to timber and other forest products were similar to those which the forester anticipated for 15 to 20 years hence—namely, scanty supplies from outside and scanty resources inside, and a large demand with a consequently high price. That state of affairs, if expensive, would possibly be a blessing in disguise, for where apparent blindness to facts or the want of comprehension of the necessity for extensive forest development existed, a much better vision prevailed to-day, and the crying of those in the wilderness was more likely to be listened to now. The financial aspect of forestry in South Australia had not been understood by some, chiefly, he believed, on account of lack of data. By a proper survey of timber areas it was possible to demonstrate that even in these expensive days forestry was still as profitable as ever for the State, if the work were properly done on scientific lines, and a market cultivated for all classes of the product. There was no getting away from the fact that before long they would wake up and find they required several millions of acres of good timber, and they would also find that they had not got it. The question of responsibility for that state of affairs would arise, but the sin would lie at the door of the community which had omitted not so much to foresee future necessities, as to prepare for them. The responsibility for providing for future needs must be shouldered by the State forest service, which would have to work at high pressure. The University of Adelaide had shouldered its responsibility of training men for the future, but that was only a means to an end. They must also extend the forests where suitable accommodation could be found. There was absolutely no time to waste. The areas of country in South Australia which were easily obtainable for forest purposes were adequate for the production of the timber of the future. The city park lands would not suffer under a scheme of forest plantations on modern scientific lines. The timber would be within the front door of the city, and would within a short time pay handsomely for the rest of the parks if the planting were on a sufficient scale. A large collection of lantern slides were shown dealing with forestry in South Australia and in Europe and America. Mr. Corbin was heartily thanked by the meeting.