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PRIMEVAL FOREST GIVEN TO HARVARD
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In a rough and inaccessible corner of Cheshire County, New Hampshire, there has survived up to comparatively recent years a block of 5,000 acres of primeval forest. For two generations this tract has been in the hands of one family. Little by little it has been logged off until only a few considerable portions of the original forest remain. Nowhere else in New England is there any remnant of virgin pine forest which is equal in size and authenticity to this so-called Pisgah Forest in southern New Hampshire.

Realizing that without prompt action this last sample of original woodland would vanish, a number of public spirited donors have purchased an isolated area of approximately twenty acres which has been deeded to the Harvard Forest to maintain and protect unaltered as a sample of forest conditions that have now practically disappeared from central New England.

For the purposes in view this piece of old forest, although small, is peculiarly well located. It lies mainly in a long hollow on the summit of Pisgah Mountain. On two sides there are ledges having almost the character of rim rocks, which keep the forest floor moist and protected and greatly enhance the beauty and visibility of the forest. The nearest public road is several miles distant, and from the end of a lumber road one must walk a mile and a half up an old trail to reach the big trees. This isolation together with the character of the surrounding forest makes the danger from fire relatively slight; and the steep approach through second growth hardwood makes the contrast with the tall forest on the summit unusually impressive.

The dimensions of the trees in the Pisgah stand do not equal the records of old growth pines in more favored locations, but they are

nevertheless far beyond the ordinary sizes of trees seen in New England woods today. As is usual in primeval forest, the pines overtop all other trees, rising singly or in groups 100 ft. to 140 ft. and with diameters at breast height up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. or more. Slightly lower than the pines and forming in themselves a handsome forest are great numbers of hemlocks, among which are occasional spruces and a scattering of beech and oak, with much of the characteristic undergrowth and small plants which are found only in undisturbed forest. To judge from the age of trees in similar stands which have been cut on other portions of the property, the age of the Pisgah pines is from 200 to 300 years, well antedating the arrival of the first white men.

Apart from the beauty and picturesqueness of the tract, it will have, particularly for ecologists and foresters, a real scientific interest. The problems of forestry and ecology are very much concerned with understanding the operation and importance of the physical factors in second growth forests where the influence of man and his agencies has brought about unstable and changing conditions. Only by the observation of the primeval forest can such alterations in forest condition be finally interpreted.

The Pisgah Forest will not be in the usual sense a public reservation. Primarily it is a museum of forest antiquity to which interested persons will always be welcome. Its interest and value will be the greater in proportion as it remains unaltered and undisturbed.