

FOREWORD

Over the years there has been a small but important amount of research in forest genetics in the Lake States, and recently there has been a growing awareness of the importance of tree improvement in this region. For these reasons it appeared that a meeting of people active or interested in forest genetics might be worth while. So after consultation with a number of foresters and geneticists in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, we decided to sponsor a Lake States Forest Genetics Conference at Eagle River, Wisconsin, on March 31 and April 1, 1953.

This Conference provided an opportunity (1) for those engaged in forest genetics research to report briefly on what they have done and what they have learned, (2) for those interested to learn the status of such research in the Lake States, and (3) for interested people to point out problems needing study. Out of this Conference there developed the Lake States Forest Tree Improvement Committee, the purpose of which is to "encourage and coordinate forest genetics activities in this region." This, I believe, represents a forward step of far-reaching importance.

I should like to express my appreciation to all who participated in this Conference. Special thanks are due Dr. Ernest B. Babcock of the Forest Genetics Research Foundation, Dr. Scott S. Pauley of Harvard University, and Dr. C. Heimburger of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, who came long distances to meet with us, and to M. N. Taylor and his staff at Trees for Tomorrow, Inc., for the excellent meeting place and facilities they made available to us.

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