

## ILLINOIS TREES.

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Illinois was originally a prairie country, but there were also large bodies of woodland. The northern and southern quarters were better wooded than was the central half of the area, tho the latter had many groves and belts of timber. The trees were of numerous species and often were finely developed specimens. The largest were on the rich lands bordering the streams, notably upon the "bottoms" of the Mississippi, Ohio and Wabash rivers.

A very large proportion of the forests have been cut off, until today there is supposed to be but 18 per cent. of the whole area which can be classed as woodland. On the other hand, multitudes of trees have been planted and in many instances have grown into great size. There is far less "timber" existing now than formerly, tho there may be as many living trees as there were before the white man began his sway.

Only eight species of coniferous trees are native to our area, none of which existed in comparatively large numbers, and some of which were closely restricted in distribution. The broad-leaved kinds are represented by eighty-two native species which may be called timber trees. Besides these, at least seven kinds which reach the size of large trees have been introduced and are now self-perpetuating. Numerous other kinds have been planted and have proved to be well adapted to the prevailing conditions.

The time has fully arrived for effective action by individuals, by societies, and by the State looking toward the preservation and better utilization of our natural forests and for the extension and improvement of woodlands. The local conditions and general needs should be exhaustively studied in order that the best provision for the future may be made. Illinois has comparatively small forest areas, but has needs for forest supplies and influences enormously large. These can in part be self furnished. It is surely time that the work should begin.