Trees Provide Dartmouth Scholarships

Hanover, N. H., Dec. 7—A gift of timberland from the State of New Hampshire 133 years ago makes a college education at Dartmouth possible today for a number of needy students from the state. Timber cut by the college on the 27,000-acre grant at the northern tip of New Hampshire has built up a substantial fund over the years, financing among other scholarships the New Hampshire regionals of $500 each which go to two outstanding freshmen each fall to be continued through four years of college.

Cognizant of Dartmouth’s usefulness to the state and the high cost of providing higher education, the New Hampshire State Legislature in 1807 presented the college with 27,000 acres of woodland in northeastern-lying Coos County to give “countenance and encouragement to that laudable institution.” In accordance with the practice of the period to get income from grants of land, Dartmouth tried leasing 100-acre lots to settlers, but the experiment was a failure. The failure was fortunate, as it turned out, for timber cuttings have produced funds many times the value of the land.

Lumbering operations from time to time culminated in a substantial cut of spruce and fir in the period from 1920 to 1929. Proceeds from the cuttings were placed in the Second College Grant Reserve Fund, which now provides annually for scholarships and other needs of the college. This year axes are again ringing over the ice-stilled waters of the Diamond River, and the birch, the maple and the other hardwoods are crashing into regimented piles so that more New Hampshire boys may search for learning “in Dartmouth’s classic halls.”