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Born in 1874 at Simbirsk, Russia, Raphael Zon, because of his liberal leanings, was forced to flee Russia in 1896. He spent the next two years studying at the University in Liège, Belgium, and at the University of London. In 1898 he made his way to the United States, and in 1901 received his degree in forestry at Cornell University. In July of that year he joined Gifford Pinchot as a forester for the Bureau of Forestry (later the U.S. Forest Service) in the U.S.D.A. For the next 43 years his career lay with that agency, all of it in the field of forest research.

Zon established the first forest experiment stations in the U.S. in 1908, and envisioned and laid the foundation for the system of regional forest experiment stations that were established, largely between 1921 and 1923, by the U.S.F.S. He became the director of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station at its inception in 1923.

One of Zon's most controversial undertakings was the Prairie States Forestry Project, better known as the Shelterbelt Project. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1934, proposed establishment of a network of shelterbelts in the prairie-plains states, it was Zon who was given responsibility for the technical direction of the project, which was essentially his own brainchild. Between 1935 and 1942 18,600 miles of shelterbelts were planted in the tier of states from North Dakota to Texas. A survey in 1954 showed that 77% of the plantings had been successful, and that a large proportion of the failures had resulted from preventable causes.

Among his many noteworthy accomplishments were his pioneer studies in the relation of forests to streamflow and flood control, his initiation of silvicultural research on jack pine and aspen, & his campaign for the adoption of partial cutting methods,

Throughout his professional career Raphael Zon wielded strong influence on the progress and direction of professional forestry in the U.S., authoring more than 200 scientific publications and holding important positions and receiving high honors in many areas of the profession of forestry and its related fields.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Forest Service  
Lake States Forest Experiment Station

*Olson*

NEWS BULLETIN--For immediate release

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Celebrate 50th Anniversary of the Forest Service

Over 100 foresters and guests celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, at a dinner in St. Paul, December 12. The dinner was sponsored by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station.

The after-dinner program featured notable events and personalities in the Forest Service since it was established in 1905. Honored guests were Mr. Raphael Zon and Mr. William T. Cox of St. Paul, who were presented with certificates of charter membership in the Forest Service by M. B. Dickerman, Director of the Station.

Both Mr. Zon and Mr. Cox helped to lay the foundations on which 50 years of progress was built, Mr. Dickerman said.

Dr. Zon was instrumental in setting up the regional forest experiment station system. When the Lake States Station was established in St. Paul in 1923, he became its first director and remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1944.

Mr. Cox helped to determine the boundary lines for many of the western national forests created by President T.R. Roosevelt. From 1911 to 1923 Mr. Cox was Minnesota's State Forester; later he served as the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation.

Guests, in addition to present and former members of the Lake States Station staff, included the faculty of the Forestry School, University of Minnesota, and Supervisors Louis C. Hermel and Dan Bulfer of the Superior and Chippewa National Forests respectively, together with some of their staffs.

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