

known to be so poor, as far as market supplies are concerned, that for generations to come they must be left out of consideration.*

The following table, compiled from the most reliable sources of information attainable and correcting any previous statements made by this division, is intended to give information as to approximate relation of improved land, forest and waste land:—

*Elsewhere in the same report Mr. Fernow says:—

“In the well-managed forests of Prussia (some 35,000,000 acres), largely stocked on poor land, the average total production of wood per acre for a long series of years has not been more than 21 cubic feet, but this includes branch wood, brush and roots, which are not used in our country. Of this, only 14 per cent, or hardly 3 cubic feet, represents material fit for the industrial uses; and we should add that in the United States firewood is also made from such material. In the Government forests of Prussia (some 8,000,000), exemplary in their management, the production reaches nearly 6 cubic feet. The highest wood production in German forests is reported from Baden (over only 4,330,000 acres of forest) with somewhat over 50 cubic feet of wood per acre per year. Assuming also a larger per cent of sizable timber, namely, 20 per cent, we would here find the annual production per acre of such material as we are in the habit of using at the rate of 10 cubic feet per acre. Competent writers on the subject, who believe that the Government reports understated the annual growth, have calculated the same to be as high as 55 cubic feet per acre (see report of Forestry Division, 1886, p. 184), of which they assume 27 per cent to represent wood over three inches in diameter; even this larger figure would bring the product of sizable wood to less than 15 cubic feet per year. And I repeat what is well known, that in the United States we hardly use the smaller sizes even for firewood.

“To come now to more familiar measurements, we can figure out the possibilities or probabilities in the following manner, leaning toward extravagance rather than conservatism:—

“Any lumberman acquainted with the various forest regions of the United States will admit that, leaving out the exceptional conditions on the Pacific coast, a cut of 20,000 feet b.m. per acre from our virgin forests would be an absurdly larger average estimate; this would represent, with excellent practice in the preparation of the material, say 2,000 cubic feet of round forest grown timber, and since the trees cut to yield such material are at least 150 years old—they are in reality mostly over 200 years—the annual production would appear under such conditions as 14 cubic feet per acre per annum, or about as much as the most advantageous results afforded from well-managed German forests.”