

plains. But your first work must be, to place those forests in working order which yield the timber used in your country and exported abroad.

At the outset this, as all similar operations, will entail expense, which you will I hope, be able to get Parliament to sanction. But after a few years, the revenue from these forests will far exceed the annual outlay, and then you will be independent, and can think of other branches of your business. Your aim should be, to make yourself financially independent as soon as possible.

In the teak forests in Burma, I commenced work in January, 1856, and in 1860 I was so far as to make a good annual surplus, and to sell at my Rangoon timber depot, timber of the first quality. Then, however, the timber merchants at Rangoon, who at first had looked with contempt upon my operations, demanded that the forests should be made over to them, and with the help of their friends, the powerful firms at Calcutta, they induced the Government of India to send orders to Rangoon (February, 1861), to throw open the forests to private enterprises.

Your Government will, I trust, be more far-sighted when the time comes, and I have no doubt they will be glad to have the revenue which your forests will produce, and which, under good management, will eventually become very large.

You will naturally ask: Why is not the coniferous timber which Great Britain imports, produced in this country? The reply is, that the land is nearly all private property, and as a rule the great proprietors are too rich to feel the necessity of increasing their incomes by making their forests pay. There is an immense deal of talking and writing regarding the necessity of planting up the waste lands, and managing the existing woodlands to greater advantage. In my younger days I have talked and worked in this direction, and since Dr. Schlick has taken charge of the Cooper Hill Forest School in 1885, he has been indefatigable in writing and speaking publicly. I have purposely kept in the background during this time, as it was better that the movement should be in one hand, and as Dr. Schlick had thrown himself into it heart and soul."