

A Textbook of Conservation.

The Conservation of Natural Resources in the United States, by Chas. R. van Hise, of the University of Wisconsin. Pages xvi and 413. The Macmillan Company of Canada, Ltd., Toronto. Price, \$2.00.

As the result of the movement for conservation of natural resources, an immense amount of information regarding these resources has been collected in the United States (as in other countries to which the movement has extended), but until lately this knowledge has been in such shape that only the specialist in a particular department has had the time—let alone the training—to investigate the mass of material so collected.

This lack of a concise and non-technical compendium of the knowledge on the subject Dr. van Hise has sought to remedy by the publication of this book, which in the space of some four hundred pages presents a synopsis of the results of the investigations of the United States Commission of Conservation. The material for this work was taken largely from the Report of the National Conservation Commission, published at Washington (in a limited edition) in 1909, (Senate Document No. 676, 60th Congress, 2nd session).

The value of the work, as has been hinted, lies in the fact that it enables the reader to form a general idea of a subject of such vast extent and to see the relation of the different parts to each other and to the whole. This, as the author states in his preface, is the chief aim in publishing the work.

The book naturally falls into five parts,

namely, (1) Mineral Resources, (2) Water, (3) Forests, (4) Soil, and (5) Mankind—the first four of approximately a hundred pages each, and the last more briefly treated. The subject of the forests, while of the four it has the least letterpress devoted to it, is illustrated by some thirteen or fourteen of the half-tone plates which are found in the book, as well as by six of the twenty figures.

The section devoted to forestry gives a short sketch of the original forests and of the existing forests and takes up the conservation of forest products under the following heads: (1) Reduction of Waste in Cutting, (2) Reduction of Waste in Milling and Manufacture, (3) Reduction of Loss in Turpentine, (4) Extension of Life of Timber by Preservative Treatment, (5) Utilization of By-products, (6) Reduction of Fire Losses and the Control of Fires, (7) Reforestation, (8) Maintenance of Forests upon Essential Areas, (9) Increase of Forest Growth by Stocking, (10) Battle With Insect Pests, (11) Substitution of Other Products for Wood, and (12) Reform of Tax Laws.

Though to the student of forestry the work may not contain much that is new, it will at least give him an idea of the work in other fields, and present in a concise and convenient form the results of much work and research in his own. To the general reader a mine of facts of the utmost interest and use will be opened up.

The fact that the book bears the imprint of the Macmillan Company of Canada is a sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the mechanical work and the handsome appearance of the volume.

The Decline of the Square Timber Trade.

The annual report of the (Dominion) Department of Public Works for the year ending March 31st, 1910, contains an article of considerable interest to students of forestry and of the trade in forest products. The article referred to is contained in the report of Mr. E. T. Smith, Collector of Public Works Revenue, and is in part, as follows:

In the earlier part of the last century, the entire export of Quebec pine was in the form of timber in the squared log, hewn with the axe, and floated down to Quebec merchants, who put the timber in shipping order by butting and dressing

it at the Quebec shipping coves, disposing of the culls locally for wharf building and other similar purposes. The greater part of the timber so received and shipped was white pine, squared to a sharp edge on the four corners; deals were made for export to other countries, and reached the English market only in the character of stowage deals. The square logs (and later on waney) were converted into planks and boards at the various saw-mills in the great towns in England and in country yards; in the latter pit-sawing was largely in vogue for log conversion.

In 1861, waney pine was made for the