

managing and reproducing them remains undiscovered or doubtful. The arrival of that necessity is determined by a statesmanlike balancing of three factors of statistical information, namely as to existing natural supplies at home and abroad, as to rate of consumption, at home and abroad—for we deal now with world markets instead of merely local needs—and lastly, as to the time it takes to produce a forest crop.

When it is realized that little short of one hundred years are required to produce trees fit for use in the arts—the trees in the virgin forest which attract the lumberman exceed mostly one hundred and fifty years—it will be readily admitted that the long time element is a serious factor in obscuring the arrival of the need of active measures in forest production to provide for the future. The present generation may be excused for taking an attitude of optimism, and for postponing the curtailing of present revenue or the making present expenditures for a distant future, which is implied in the application of the art of forestry. A forester, let it be understood, is nothing less but something more than a lumberman; his business, like that of the lumberman, is to supply the community with wood materials, but while the lumberman is concerned merely in the harvesting of the virgin supplies and with the needs of the present generation, the forester must also take into consideration the needs of the future and replace the harvested crop, which in every case means curtailment of present revenue, or else a change of income into investment—a re-investment in young timber growth.

From this consideration of the time element and financial aspect some other propositions will at once become evident, namely, that forestry can be practised only by those who have a long future before them, i. e. the State, municipalities and corporations, and secondly, that the ideals of the silviculturist—the forest crop producer—will always find limitations in the unwillingness of the present generation to make the expenditures which would insure silvicultural success, as long as financial success which can only come in the long run cannot be readily assured. Hence, the beginnings of forestry in the still productive natural woods will be crude, and will consist at first in negative rather than positive measures, namely, preventing waste by closer utilization, preventing loss by fire, preventing encroachment of inferior species, and securing a reproduction of the better kinds, as best may be, by natural means with as little present outlay as possible.

In fact, at first the forester will be called upon to do little more than the lumberman can and ought to do, and, indeed should be taught to do, and the knowledge of which he can acquire by reading or as a special student in the Faculty of Forestry.

So much, it appeared necessary to say on the general aspect