

I hope you will not establish a Forest School before you have forests under systematic management where your students can learn what is wanted. You will, of course, require a number of Forest Officers. Government forest management in India on a large scale, did not commence until in 1866 I obtained sanction to select two first rate German foresters, Schleich and Ribbentrop, who both were my successors, and to organize the professional training of young Englishmen for the Indian Forest Service in Germany and France, one of whom (the late Mr. Hill) was my third successor.

The United States would have done well, had they followed this example. But my young friend and pupil, Gifford Pinchot, thought that for political reasons it was necessary to proclaim the principle: "The American forests for the Americans." He and the small number of those who have received their professional training in the forests of France, Germany and Switzerland under my guidance are doubtless doing their best to bring the enormous area of forest reserves into working order, but in my opinion they would have done well had they strengthened their hand by the introduction of a limited number of men from Germany, of Dr. Schenck's knowledge and experience.

I doubt whether your hand will be free to act in this matter, and I will not therefore, in any way urge suggestions that may not be practicable. Fortunately the Forest School under Mr. Graves at Yale College and the Biltmore Forest School are, I understand, so far advanced that you can get men from these sources for your work. And you can wait until more of your forests are in proper working order before you establish a forest school of your own.

As soon as you have a suitable area of State forest entirely at your disposal, then place the most competent man you can get, and let him commence the management of that estate. The first operation will be to divide the area into compartments; in hilly country following the configuration of the soil; on level ground with uniform soil and other conditions, rectangular areas with due regard to river roads and other natural features. The Forest Ranger in charge is not master of the position unless he has divided his range into compartments.

When one forest range has been brought into working order then you will have to select from among the assistants whom you should at the outset give to each forest ranger, the most competent to take charge of a second range and so on, until gradually a good system of work has been introduced in the whole of your State forests.

By all means arrange for the exploration of your northern wilderness region, for the reservation of lands from settlement at the sources of your great rivers and for tree planting on the