

roads and making the plans for forestation free of charge. The communities were allowed to sell a part of the reclaimed land in order to recover the expense. From 1850 to 1892, private owners, imitating the government and communal work, 1,750,000 acres were covered with pine forests at a cost of \$4.00 to \$5.00 per acre, or, including the building of roads, a total of around \$10,000,000 had been expended. In 1877 the value of the then recovered area was estimated at over \$40,000,000, this figure being arrived at by calculating the possible net revenues of a pinery under a 75 years rotation, which was figured at \$2.50 per acre, with a production of 51 cubic feet per acre, and 200 quarts of resin (at \$3). An estimate of recent date places the value of this area at \$100,000,000.

#### How French Forestry Makes Money.

Centrally located between the valleys of the Loire and the Cher, near Orleans, lies the region of La Sologne a sandy, poorly drained plain upon an impenetrable calcareous sub-soil giving rise to stagnant waters; this region too, had been originally densely wooded, and was described as a paradise in early times; but from the beginning of the 17th century to the end of the 18th it was deforested, making it an unhealthy, useless waste. By 1787, 1,250,000 acres of this territory had become absolutely abandoned. About the middle of the 19th century a number of influential citizens constituted themselves as a committee to begin its work of recovery, the Director-General of Forests being authorized to assume the presidency of that committee. As a result a canal of 25 miles in length, and 350 miles of road were built, and some 200,000 acres (all non-agricultural lands) were planted with Maritime and Scotch pine, the state furnishing assistance through the forest service and otherwise. A set-back occurred during the severe winter of 1879, frost killing many younger plantations, which led to the substitution of the hardier Scotch pine for the Maritime pine in

the plantings. The cost per acre set out with about 3,500 two-year old seedlings amounted to \$5.00. An estimate of the value of these plantations places it at \$18,000,000, so that land which 50 years ago could hardly be sold for \$4.00 per acre, now brings over \$3.00 as an annual revenue.

In the province of Champagne south of Reims, arid limestone wastes of an extent which in the 18th century had reached 1,750,000 acres, are found. About 1807 the movement for the recovery of these wastes began first in a small way, gaining strength by 1830 after some sporadic experiments had shown the possibility of reforestation, and today over 200,000 acres are being planted. It is interesting to note that land which 50 years ago was often sold without measurement by distance, "as far as the cry would carry," and never for more than \$4.00 per acre, is today worth \$40.00, at a cost for planting of less than \$10.00. The stumpage value of a thirty years' growth is figured at from \$50 to \$100. The total forest area is valued at \$10,000,000 with net revenue from the 200,000 acres of \$2.00 per acre.

#### PENNY WISE--POUND FOOLISH

(Pacific Coast Lumberman.)

The recently announced resignation of Colonel Henry S. Graves, as Chief Forester of the United States, brings once more to mind the stupidly parsimonious scale of salaries paid in the forest branches of our own Civil Service.

Sometimes we are forced to the opinion that only the least intelligent men find their way into the high places of government. It is an unpleasant thought! Yet what else can we think, when we find government administrative heads seemingly unable to understand that low salaries on responsible posts mean book profits only — that away from the soothing figures of the accountants they nearly always mean great losses to the nation through inefficiency, dissatisfaction and the never-ending disorganization caused by a frequent change of personnel.