

INTRODUCTION

attention upon the necessary re-adjustment of industry with reference to our greatest asset, the soil. The eager interest with which the discussion thus opened up was received and taken up by the public, and by the President of the United States, was proof of the need for it and its timeliness. Because of its part in the development of a more practical industrial ideal, and because the other chapters follow out in detail the lines of its argument, this has been republished unchanged.

The last chapter, also, is published substantially as delivered before the Conference of Governors that met at the White House, Washington, in the latter part of 1907. Looking backward over the field of conservation, as the opening chapter looks forward, it is given as a fitting conclusion to the volume.

The intermediate chapters, some of which appeared in recent numbers of *The World's Work*, deal with conclusions of fact reached by the method just stated. Many of their ideas and expressions may be found in addresses made or articles published by me during the last ten years. But they are here arranged for the first time around their logical central thoughts; here first connected with all the lines of statistical fact that substantiate them; here first set in that relation of parts to a whole which gives to the book its title, *Highways of Progress*. If it shall help to make that way plain, the labour that has gone to its preparation will be well repaid.

SAINT PAUL,
May 1, 1910.

JAMES J. HILL.