

the firs grow commonly at 1000 feet above the sea level, and in very sheltered spots, even so high as 2,500 or 2,800 feet, but all these are small and stunted. Trees grow best at about 300 feet above the sea level, where the soil seems to be best. All over the district it is very sandy.

Coniferous forests are exclusively formed of fir, and are very unequally divided among the three bailiwicks, being in inverse proportion to the mountainous formation. The higher the mountains the smaller the woods, until they vanish altogether.

While in Nordmore there is a good deal of wood, sufficient for home wants, with a small surplus for exportation, in Romsdal there is much less, and in Soudmore the fir is seldom seen, and, with the exception of some good forests of foliage trees, there is a great scarcity of timber, which must either be brought from a distance or bought at a ruinous price on the spot. Turf is known and used, but not so extensively as might be expected, the people preferring to destroy the last remnants of the forests rather than adopt anything new. In all the three bailiwicks the forests have deteriorated for the last ten or twenty years on account of the increasing population and the high price given for timber.

The fir woods are badly managed, being thinned in the usual way, and consequently there are many trees stunted for want of light and room at an early period of their growth. The fellings are made without judgment, and too frequently. It is only lately that small timber was needed for various purposes, and now the trees have no chance of growing to any size, and are already vanishing in a very sad manner, fortunately heath burning, so destructive in other places, is here unknown.

There seem to be no communal forests in this county, although in the public archives I found notices of some in Surendalen and Surrdalen, but I had not time to make inquiries. In the first district I rather think they have been allotted to private individuals, although there may still exist one or two of small extent.