

the woodlands exploited during the War. This programme envisages the afforestation of 125,000 acres altogether -- no very vast encroachment upon the twelve and a half million acres of moor and waste and deer ground from which the land will be resumed.

At the outbreak of War not less than nine-tenths of the timber consumed in Scotland came from abroad. The Board of Trade Returns for 1913 gave 1,470,000 tons as the quantity of timber imported into Scotland. The total consumption of timber in that year is believed to have been about 1,623,000 tons, leaving as the balance provided by home woods only 153,000 tons or roughly one-ninth. More than one-half of the imports consisted of pitwood. As the result of the War and of the consequent compulsion to find our timber requirements at home the position has been completely reversed, and in this year nine-tenths of our requirements are supplied from home forests and one-tenth from abroad. The development of the home timber industry during the last five years has been enormous, but this development has been at the expense of the small reserve of old woods, and it is feared that large inroads have been and will continue to be made as well into the younger plantations. If the timber in-

dustry is maintained, and there is reason to expect that it will be for several years, a further serious depletion of the timber resources must result, but the industry is important and one well worth retaining in as full activity as the existing resources will allow. About 100,000 people were engaged in it in 1911, and as the fruits of afforestation accrue the expansion of timber work will increase.

The Timber Supply Department created during the War made a calculation of the fellings from 1914 to 1919 inclusive, and these totalled 170,233 acres, but it would not be unreasonable to place the actual inroad upon the woods to date at something like 200,000 acres, which would leave 652,120 acres as the area of woods remaining in situ at the present day. Of this area probably 25 per cent. or 163,000 acres will consist of coppice, the greater part of which is presently of but small marketable use, so that the real reserve of standing timber in Scotland at the birth of the Forestry Commission may be roughly computed at half-a-million acres or 2.6 per cent. of the whole extent of the country. The above estimate of reserves will ultimately be checked by accurate methods when particulars of all woodlands are properly investigated by the Forestry Commission.

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