

knowledge of the technical side of the subject; the professional economists who, only incidentally and sporadically, refer to the question have also, at best, possessed only a reading knowledge of the natural history of the forest and of the forester's art. As a result of this insufficient knowledge, these writings are only too frequently characterized by one-sided arguments and a partisan attitude without sufficient basis in fact.

Nor is there, as far as the writer knows, any book in the English language which attempts a full and systematic discussion of the subject in the manner in which it is to be treated here. This book, then, is not intended as a popular discussion, but proposes to supply a lack in the professional literature of economics in the English language; in fact, even the Germans have with perhaps one exception not yet produced a publication exactly analogous, as may be learned from the annotated index to the literature given in the Appendix.

The main difference between the present volume and other existing books may be found in the fact that not only the things which directly interest the economist have been discussed, but also a more or less comprehensive exposition of the technical details of the forester's art is given, which permits the forming of a judgment as to the conditions and limitations under which this art, or how much of it, can or must be practised.