

ties and uses of its wood, bark, gum, or other products; the removal, preparation and marketing of these products, and the various economies that may be gained by skilful operations. He must possess a knowledge of all that pertains to the growth and production of forest trees, and with this knowledge he must combine the further knowledge of how to manage a forest property so as to produce conditions that will result in the highest attainable revenue from the soil by wood-crops. His business is to grow crops of trees, AND MAKE THEM PAY. If he does not succeed in this, we are better without him. If he can succeed, and does succeed, then we should secure his services as soon as possible.

The idea that scientific foresters are purely theoretical, and of little or no use, is now pretty well exploded, even in America, and it will not be long before the science of forestry is recognized as a distinct profession here as in Europe, where much of the timber land is made to yield a yearly revenue of five dollars per acre, instead of being sold for taxes. The forester does not aim to oppose nature, but to assist her; to make use of the favourable conditions naturally existing in any given locality, and to hold in check the unfavourable ones. He exercises his skill in the selection of the most suitable species, and modifies their growth so that they will produce the most valuable timber in the shortest possible time without diminishing the value of the soil for the production of future crops. Just as the agriculturist is engaged in the production of food-crops, so the forester is engaged in the production of wood-crops. Both carry on their business for the practical purpose of a revenue; both must protect the crop from insect ravages, fungous diseases and fire; both must guard against the impoverishment of the soil, and constantly aim to increase its value. In each case the land is the principal capital, and any part of it either wholly non-productive or turned to a less profitable use than it might be represents so much wasted capital. Like other forms of capital, there is no reason why our forest wealth cannot be made to perpetually renew itself and yield ample interest from year to year without diminishing the original endowment. In addition to the growing of wood-crops for profit, the forester must consider the indirect effects of the forest on rainfall, the flow of streams, the growing of grain and fruit crops, and many other complex problems. He must cultivate a receptive attitude of mind, and endeavour to develop what may be best described as FACULTY—the rare gift of understanding the real relations of problems that at first sight do not seem to have any bearing whatever upon one another. Just as the science of botany deals with everything pertaining to vegetation, so the science of forestry has to do with everything connected with forests—EVERYTHING.

Like agriculture and mining, forestry has a scientific basis,