

returns required, and copies of tabulated returns received in regard to agriculture and cattle, including meteorological observations, in regard to fishing and the chase, in regard to industrial occupations and products, in regard to commerce, navigation, and roads, and in regard to finance and financial conditions for the years 1861-1865; and there are given official reports on the economic condition of the several prefectures for the years 1866-1870.

In the report on the forest condition of Lister and Mandal—a report made to the Department of the Interior by Forest-Assistant Aars, published in successive numbers of the *Christiansand Stiftsavis* in the latter months of 1870, the whole series is charged with most interesting minute local descriptions; but the burden of the whole is complaint of the disappearance of the forests. The first district mentioned, Vauso and Herred, is described as subject to inundations of drift sand; and the planting of the ground with trees, and the covering of the sand with sea-weed are suggested as remedial measures, the adoption of which is urgently called for. Of the *Praestergjeld*, or parish of Fjotland, the clergyman writes that 'things are bad and every day becoming worse; as time goes on every stick growing will be converted into money, and then — ?' From another district the clergyman writes that there is no hope unless the Government come forward and purchase the remaining forests. From a third district the clergyman, after pouring out a long Jeremiad of lamentations, winds up with a like suggestion as the only measure likely to prevent utter devastation; and from the *Praestergjeld*, or parish of Siredalens, the report is that the destruction of forests has been carried so far that even the interposition of the Government could effect nothing in preventing desolation, as some places must ere long be almost uninhabitable.

The report was furnished to me by the Government; it is in exact accordance with what I have seen of the results of reckless felling elsewhere.