A VALUABLE NATIONAL FOREST RESERVATION.

But a far more important consideration than any that concerns failure to realize immediate value from our trees is the one of forest preservation. The seven or eight million acres of pine timber, which nature has made to grow upon the domain of Wisconsin as an element of national wealth, if it had been properly cared for, might without any doubt have yielded the greater portion of all the timber that has gone into public and private structures, rendered nearly as much return to the public treasury and to legitimate private competency as it has rendered, and, after all this, there might have been now standing, covering nearly as many acres and in more wholesome growth and rendering abundant service today, our great pine forest of Wisconsin in its integrity—a present and perpetual reservoir of national wealth. This must be said with the qualification, indeed, that increasing population has made it necessary to retire the forests in many places in order to allow the growth of homes and the clearing of land for tillage. As yet, however, the encroachment of farming lands upon the forest areas has not been so great, nor is likely, by reason of the nature of the soil, to be so great, as necessarily to lessen—with a practicable degree of prudence and foresight—the possible area of pine-growing districts, and the statement made is nearly capable of being established in full—that the lessening of the acreage of pine in Wisconsin has been quite unnecessary. With proper care, replanting and further
planting, the whole pine forest as large and prospectively productive and meanwhile rendering as much beneficent contribution to national industry and comfort, might have been standing to-day.

NATIONAL FOREST TILLAGE.

Consider what would be the value of our pine forest of Wisconsin now, if it had been properly dispensed and according to well known methods husbanded and replenished,—the cherished harvest field of northern Wisconsin, which has been preparing for us in the laboratories of the soil for many centuries. What treasure the federal government would now have within the limits of our state! Call the value of an acre of pine land to-day thirty dollars—not less than $100,000,000. Call the average value per acre half of thirty dollars, and you have $50,000,000, and it would be always rendering a handsome and increasing annual income as a nursery of lumber. In 1887 the kingdom of Prussia realized an ordinary annual net income from her forests, though this was of course in larger measure than with ours for firewood, 22,557,800 marks ($4,511,360). The little kingdom of Wurtemburg in 1884 realized an income of $1,236,476.65. In Sweden, in 1887, the forests returned, over and above all expenses, $450,000. All that would be needed for similar results with us would be the putting in practice of proper methods of administering the forests, such as are now, and have long