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 Wurttemburg 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
been, well understood. A bill was introduced into congress last July providing for establishing a public department for the management of forests according to these reasonable methods. It is to be hoped that growing attention to the subject will compel its early enactment into law. As with so many other lost opportunities, will repentance come in this case too late? A National Forestry Association was formed some years ago, one of the objects of which was to secure appropriate action on the part of our government. To assist in promoting such result is one purpose in mind in the deliberations for which we are assembled, and in which we are now occupied.

**State Forests in Wisconsin.**

But for the husbanding of this portion of our forest growths we are not directly responsible, though, as I have said, it would seem to be our privilege, charged as we are with the building up of this commonwealth, having carefully considered methods for ordering our forest resources, to have no pernicious example set amongst us of looser methods by the federal government in ordering its own. There is, however, a portion of the forest area in the ownership of the state, and to that our responsibility does extend. The forests, not small in extent, actually belonging to the state as an element of its public wealth, it will be profitable to us especially to consider.