SHALL WE PRESERVE OUR STATE FORESTS IN FUTURE?

But we will turn our back upon the past, for it is not possible, even if it were given men to know beforehand, in the beginning, the wise methods of all procedures, when it is gone, to recall or undo all its errors. It is the lot, venial, we trust, if not altogether blameless, of states as of individual persons, to be guilty of earlier neglects which maturer time can only regret and endeavor to compensate by the mending of the future. The state of Wisconsin seems now, in this five hundredth year of the continent, to have reached a day for recovering itself from some of the errors of the past. As life at length comes to a period of maturer youth, when, in the morning of a courageous manhood, it stirs itself like the earth in springtime, for its resolute and productive day, so a commonwealth, in the flush of its dawn of promise, will take high account of itself for a career that shall match its beauty of situation, its traditions of manifold historic nationalities, and the splendid achievements of civilization open before it.

A TRUST FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

By the report of the commissioner of the public lands of the state it appears that there still remains, out of the original five or six millions, in our present ownership an area of six hundred and seven thousand five hundred and seventy-two acres. Of this area, taking all things into consideration, from one-quarter to one-half is
yielding now, and more than one-half is capable of yielding, valuable pine and hard-wood timber. Of course a considerable portion is in detached areas, and in consequence possibly not so profitable for the work of the lumberman as areas more extended. Some small portion of this land might render large returns for the uses of the actual settler, and of course the settler is the richest crop upon our soil, and should first be cultivated; but mainly its only profitable use, in the purposes of our civilization, is for the growing of timber. Its sandy soil indicates this, and the severity of its climate, rendering it unfriendly for the smaller fruits, which otherwise grow in soil of this character. Obviously the proper administration of the state’s productive resources will involve measures for employing this naturally suitable woodland as a permanent timber area. It is one chief object of the Forestry Association we are assembled to constitute, to urge upon our state government such administration. We deem this one of the foremost measures in the economical horizon of the commonwealth.

**Forest Tillage Nothing New.**

Before calling your attention to some of the more important reasons for such disposition, we ought to appreciate the objections which possibly may be urged against it. We must remember that, as I have said, this is nothing new. Many forestry associations have been formed in the last few years, among which Pennsylvania perhaps takes the lead. On the contrary, it is