flourisheth and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down and withereth." A commonwealth is endowed with a sort of earthly immortality, and far-sighted wisdom looks across the period of centuries, and one generation, if it be at all reasonable, will recognize itself as constituted to be almoner of blessings to generations far away in the future. In another generation the proper management of the public forests will be as generally recognized here as it is now in Germany or France, Norway or Sweden. For what failures we allow ourselves in, from which they suffer, they will hold us responsible.

A REASONABLE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

I have heard but two objections to the suggested methods of dealing with the timber areas of the state. It is a disgrace to us to speak of prevailing corruption in civil service as being an objection to what is proposed. One is the seeming infelicity that the state should embarrass itself with engaging in a venture so wide and permanent as the administration of a public forest area. This is much less than the responsibility many are nowadays urging that the public administration take upon itself, though I know there are many of us of the opinion that the less of industrial and economical ventures the state assumes, and the more they are left, with suitable control, to private enterprise, the better. This, however, is one of the things private enterprise cannot be safely intrusted with, as the past has well shown;
and if there should appear to be reasons for preserving the forests at all—for income and other advantages—they make it advisable that the burden be assumed by the people in their corporate capacity. That there are such reasons, besides the immediate financial one, I think is manifest. After all, no one who observes carefully the growth, in late years, of the governmental function in our country and abroad, can fail to see that the enlargement of the province of government, and the multiplying of things it must take upon itself to do in ordering the interests of society, will make so small a matter as that of keeping control of its timber lands seem an insignificant and not very embarrassing affair. We are passing through a period of transition in the matter of fidelity in civil service, and when the newer and better conception of public trust has fairly become established, the state, properly equipped with service, will easily assume and carry such burdens as the public good requires.

**An Objection Which Vanishes with Time.**

For the other objection, I have heard it said that the widely apart location of the blocks of timber belonging to the state—a patch here and a patch there—renders its conservation for successive harvesting impracticable as regards any financial profit. It is said that timber lands, to be profitable, must be located in large areas. If the pieces of public wood land should prove isolated because of the removal of private holdings in proximity to them, the harvesting of