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
them would, it is said, necessitate, in the making
of roads and camps, an expense which the small-
ness of the gatherings would not warrant. This
is not true, unless exceptionally and for a time,
although I ought, perhaps, to leave it to the
judgment of those who are more experienced in
the economics of wood lands. I have the best
of expert testimony, however, to the contrary,
for the long run. And I know that I have seen
patches of woodland in southern Indiana, Ala-
abama and Georgia, of incalculable permanent
value, as small as any of the eighties which still
remain of the Wisconsin school lands. No diffi-
culty of this kind is found to exist in obtaining
adequate returns from the timber preserves in
Germany or France. The methods of approach
to the wood land of the state also are, and con-
stantly will be, improving, and will render it a far
more simple thing to harvest a smaller area than
to penetrate to the heart of a forest miles in ex-
tent. Moreover much of the timber land belong-
ing to the state is not scattered in its location.
There are considerable areas of pine and hard-
wood bearing land in the region known as the
swamp lands and the indemnity lands. This is
true of the so-called park in Oneida county, con-
cerning which a bill has been strangely before
our legislature for retiring it from the public do-
main. Add to all these considerations that the
value of the pine and hard-wood suitable for lum-
ber will, from now on, be increasing by reason of
its growing scarcity, and the objection, if there
are decided countervailing reasons, does not seem
at all determinant. We are confronted by this peculiar fact, that there is in the ownership of this commonwealth, with the care of whose resources we are entrusted for the public welfare, a large and valuable area of pine and hard-wood timber land, admirably congenial to this growth, but not adapted for common tillage, and in any case not needed for actual settlement. If dealt with according to methods thus far practiced, as it has been proposed to deal with it, it will soon all have passed with small pecuniary return into the hands of private individuals to be plundered of its valuable timber for their personal and unequal enrichment, and then left a desolate and worthless wilderness; or it may be retained as a public holding to be cultivated, by simple and obvious methods, for economically administered timber, through a long and indefinite succession of years, as careful statesmanship may require.

NEW FORESTS WITHIN REACH.

The part of good statesmanship is, even as there is abundant opportunity, instead of being contented to deal with our present state forests only in the manner indicated, to add to their areas in very large degree by purchase or through private gift. It appears that there are large tracts of originally timbered land, from which the timber has been removed, thus depriving the land of value to their owners, which might easily be obtained at little cost for purposes of replanting or renewed growth. There is no reason to suppose that much of this soil would not yield abund-