CHAPTER IX

FINDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE
ITS SIGNIFICANCE

By R. Y. Stuart

In reviewing the program of the conference I have been particularly impressed with the broad approach to the subject and the diversity of interests represented by those who participated in the discussions. This is highly significant. It evidences a widespread recognition in the State of the need for a sound solution, not only of its forest problem, but also of its general land problem. That need is both urgent and vital. It is a need that is shared by other States whose timber resources are comparable with those of Wisconsin. The broad representation of interests in the discussion of the forest problems not only indicated the general recognition of its importance and scope; it also holds out the prospect of effective action based on common counsel and coordinated participation in the effort, first to find the right answer and after that to bring to pass whatever the situation calls for.

There are both public and private agencies concerned, and public and private responsibilities to be recognized and assumed. The greatest value of the Wisconsin conference, as I see it, will result from getting these agencies together to work out how most effectively they may severally and jointly bring about better conditions. We need more such conferences which aim to focus public attention on the specific aspects of our forest problem and to present clear-cut programs of action following them.

If, as I anticipate, the Milwaukee conference becomes the means of developing understandingly the actual forest situation in Wisconsin and evolves a plan of action to improve it, the service rendered will be of importance, not only to the citizens of Wisconsin, but to the country at large.