REPORT OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION.

To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of Wisconsin:

The commission which was appointed by the governor, pursuant to chapter 229 of the laws of 1897, for the purposes defined in said statute, and which is composed of Geo. B. Burrows, H. C. Putnam, and Ernest Bruncken, respectfully submit the following report:

The commission was organized on June 15, 1897, by the election of George B. Burrows as chairman and Ernest Bruncken as secretary. As it seemed imperative to the proper fulfillment of the objects of the commission to have a more definite knowledge than was then obtainable of the actual, present condition of the Wisconsin forests, an arrangement was made with the State Geological and Natural History Survey and the Forestry Division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for the making of such an inquiry. The result of that investigation may be found in the bulletin of the Geological Survey on "The Forest Resources of Northern Wisconsin," by Filibert Roth. The thanks of this commission are due to the gentlemen connected with the two institutions named, and particularly to Prof. Birge of the Geological Survey; Dr. B. E. Fernow, late chief of the U. S. Forestry Division; Prof. Filibert Roth, now of Cornell University, and Prof. L. S. Cheney of the State University, for the invaluable assistance thus rendered. The following report is in no small measure based on the data so ascertained.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

The meaning of the word forestry is still somewhat unfamiliar to many people in the United States, and to a misapprehension of its meaning may be ascribed a good deal of opposition encountered by the advocates of improved forestry methods. Many persons imagine it to be synonymous with arboriculture, or the planting and care of trees. In reality that is but a branch of the subject, and as far as Wisconsin is concerned, by no means one of the most important. Forestry is simply the management of lands grown with forests. Its object is to derive from such lands