

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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what is practically a combination of arbitration and forest management is a gratifying mark of the influence of the practical field work of the Division of Forestry in the Adirondacks.

The total area of private forests actually under the management of the Bureau of Forestry is now 176,975 acres.

Of the tracts of which preliminary examination was made during the year and for which detailed working plans will be made as soon as possible, one of the most promising is that of the Okeetee Club, near Ridgeland, S. C. This consists of 60,000 acres of Longleaf Pine land in Beaufort and Hampton counties, about 30 miles north of Savannah. It presents a notable opportunity for the study of the Longleaf Pine and of the relation which fire bears to its reproduction. The fact that it is at the same time thoroughly well adapted for practical forestry makes the preparation of the working plan one of the important pieces of work to be undertaken by the Bureau.

The tract of the Moose River Lumber Company, in the Adirondacks, has been examined and a working plan recommended. That this working plan is now in preparation is significant of the growing appreciation by lumbermen and business men generally of the advantages of conservative forestry.

PUBLIC LANDS.

During the past year the Division, as rapidly as its force and its appropriation would allow, has pushed the preparation of working plans for the National forest reserves. This exceedingly important piece of work is the result of a request upon the Secretary of Agriculture from the Secretary of the Interior for technical advice regarding the management of the reserves, which comprise an area of 46,828,449 acres.

During the year the field work necessary to a working plan for the Black Hills Forest Reserve was completed. It occupied a party of 16 men for four months, and included a thorough study of the Western Yellow Pine, or Bull Pine, of local questions of lumbering, grazing, and fire, and of those conditions generally which must determine the best management of the reserve. The total stand of timber and young growth was measured upon 10,234 acres and the rate of growth of 4,500 trees was ascertained, to serve as a basis for calculations of volume and yield. The working up of these results is nearing completion. There is no other forest in the United States in which practical forestry is more urgently needed, or in which results of such importance may be more easily achieved than in the Black Hills Forest Reserve. It is practically a pure forest of Western Yellow Pine, remarkable for the abundance of its reproduction and its thorough adaptation to practical forestry. Upon its preservation depends the timber to supply a great and rapidly growing mining industry which has built up and now maintains the prosperity of this region. Its effect upon the water supply, without which mining in the Black Hills must fail, offers a most striking example of the influence of forests upon stream flow. Already vast expenditures have been made to bring from other streams the indispensable water supply formerly taken in abundance from sources which have failed since the destruction of the forest.

Examinations preparatory to working plans were made of the Prescott, Big Horn, and Priest River forest reserves, a total area of 2,249,600 acres.

Next in importance among the duties of this section to the work in