

men who fought at Bunker Hill and Lexington, at Gettysburg and Richmond, will be equal to the destruction of the new tyranny remains to be seen. But, surely, if political liberty was worth fighting for, industrial liberty is worth voting for.

THOMAS SCANLON,  
Liverpool, England.

GOVERNMENT FORESTRY.

Report of Dr. Fernow on the Work of the Forestry Division of the Government.

The New York Evening Post makes the following summary of the report:

"The report was prepared by Prof. B. E. Fernow, formerly chief of the Division of Forestry, of the department of agriculture and was designed to answer an inquiry incorporated in the act of congress making appropriations for the department of agriculture for the last fiscal year, which called for "a special and detailed report . . . upon the forestry investigations and work of the department . . . showing the results obtained and the practical utility of the investigations."

German Methods.

"Dr. Fernow employed to a considerable degree the German methods of forestry. This occasioned not a little controversy.

"The idea of the "foreign" element in this branch of science tinged a recent utterance of President Hadley, in an address before the Yale Alumni Association of Cleveland. 'Of all the needs at present,' said he, 'the thing we feel the need of most is the intelligent teaching of forestry, which stands out prominent. We need it for the sake of the rainfall of the country, for the health of the country, for the future life of the country. I hope I shall see established at Yale in the not far distant future a school of forestry, which shall not be a school of a kind of botany as are some of the schools at present in the country; not modeled on German fashions, as is the case with the remainder; but as a school adapted to the needs of America, teaching in the studio and in the laboratory the principles of botany and surveying, the law of economics necessary to the understanding of the subject, and giving the man a chance to go out into the fields and do practical field work, and work into positions with the United States government; work into positions of private influence also, which are bound in the immediate future to increase very greatly in importance. Such a school of forestry I believe we have at hand and before us.'

"All these things have attracted attention here, as calculated to give somewhat of a backset to the interests of forestry as a science, in its relations to the government. The government is still the largest forest owner in the

United States, and the one most interested in so conserving the forest resources as to make them a part of the permanent capital of the country, to be husbanded and guarded for the benefit of posterity just as much as any of the political institutions on which American patriots set store for the sake of their children and their children's children, as distinguished from a mere mechanism for producing immediate returns to their own purses.

Forestry An Art.

"The distinctions involved are very well set forth in Dr. Fernow's latest report on his work in the Adirondack forest. He argues that forestry is not only an art—the formal expression by man of certain scientific laws—but a producing business, in which the market question is the first one to be settled. This makes it plain that the management of a forest property cannot be carried on without consideration of the business conditions immediately surrounding the particular property, and, hence, that which may be proper to do in Germany or in India may not be proper to do in the United States, and that which the state, with its life-long and farther reaching interests and providential functions, may do with its property, may be unwise for the private owner. But, even though market conditions differ so widely between Germany and the United States, it must not be argued that the United States cannot learn much from Germany; these persons, therefore, who assert that "American" forestry must differ radically from "German" forestry overlook the fact that the fundamental principles which underlie the art or business are the same all over the world, like the general economic principles which underlie all trade and commerce. Moreover, as in other arts, so in forestry, we naturally study its manifestations in that country where the art has been most highly developed, and differentiate our local methods from those pursued there, to suit the differences between the conditions in the two countries. It is only by familiarity with what has been done in Germany, where the art of forestry has undergone two centuries of development, that the teacher of forestry in America can make an intelligent application of the basic laws of forestry to the situation presenting itself here, just as in architecture the history of the art in Greece and Rome must be known to the man who would be thoroughly equipped for the best work in America, even though he might not erect a single edifice here in actual imitation of the classic models.

An Unjust Prejudice.

"The whole attempt to throw discredit by indirection upon the administration of Dr. Fernow—to whose energy and earnestness is due, perhaps, more than

to any other one influence, the popular respect shown for forestry in this country today—is the effect of a narrow view of a large subject. If the Department of Agriculture is to have a standing in the scientific world, it must be achieved by what it does for science, not by what it does merely in paternal aid of individual farmers here and there. The demonstrations to which it should give its first attention in forestry are those which will show, by timber-tests, statistical estimates, and the like, what the forest resources of the country really are, and the proper field for the expenditure of its chief energies is the great forest area still owned by the government. Its work in other directions should be strictly incidental to this, and measured by the willingness of the great body of taxpayers to spend their money for the benefit of individuals who happen to own tracts of wooded country. And until the government is ready to reduce its forestry service to the level of its free seed gift enterprise, we should have an end of the twaddle about "German" forestry as distinguished from "American" forestry, or any other kind of forestry, for this is as absurd as if, under a stress of patriotic fervor, we were to wipe quinine out of the materia medica because foreign physicians were the first to make use of it, or refuse to let American children get the best training in music because the leading masters of the art have been to school in Italy.

Because ten men out of a hundred can not use, unless they abuse stimulants, the prohibition party proposes to make it impossible for the ninety other men, out of a hundred, who can so use stimulants as to make them a harmless pleasure, to get stimulants.

The organ of the prohibitionists is "The New Republic," but it never endeavors to enforce the Slocum law. It has not the courage to attempt an anti-saloon crusade under the provisions of the Slocum law. If the New Republic is honest why not publish the Slocum law and explain it?

Are the tremendous and ever increasing appropriations for agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States to educate the plain people or to furnish professional people with fat salaries?

Let us know how many farmers there are in each state who have been educated at these institutions?

Let the world know where in each of the states these continuous appropriations have helped farmers, made farmers or advanced their interests in a specific and practical manner.