

PLANNED MANAGEMENT OF FORESTS

by N. V. Brasnett

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IN the first chapter of this book the author deals with the definition and scope of forest management. He rightly stresses that there are no ready-made systems of forest management which can be taken off the peg and made to fit any particular forest. He therefore follows the wise road of dealing with the subject in a broad way—laying down the principles that have come to be accepted by the forestry profession. He further stresses that the management of forest areas is a practical activity, a duty which should be entrusted only to trained foresters. In fact as he aptly states it is the main reason why such men should be trained.

It is very necessary for all connected with forest organisation and management to get away from the routine grind of day to day administration once in a while and to stand back and see what the management is really aiming to achieve. What are the objects of managements? What factors influence the attainment of these objectives? Do we fully understand the nature of the crop we are handling—the way it grows, the length of time it must stand on the ground—should we work to the physical, silvicultural, technical, or financial rotation. How should we organise the forest—so as to give the best arrangement of crops in time and place—to avoid gluts, and scarcities—to make the best use of labour, transport and milling facilities. All these are matters affecting management. They can only be decided on the ground and only then if the jig-saw of crops and development stages is put together properly to give a clear picture. The forest is dynamic—changing from day to day—

and subject to modification in composition and productivity by the application of cutting and tending prescriptions. All this requires management skill of a high order applied on the ground and with the technical knowledge and skill which can foresee the effects of treatment for decades ahead.

This text book on forest management helps us to appreciate the manifold tasks of forest management as applied to forest crops. It does not solve the local problem of any estate or any forest service as to how to run its day to day business. Questions of personnel relations, and detailed administration are not dealt with but it does provide a sound basis for anyone who has to teach the groundwork of forest management.

It also provides excellent material on forest organisation—working plans—orderly arrangement of reports on crops and prescriptions for future management. The student, the practitioner in the field, or the administrator at his desk will all find something of value in this text book.

Finally the author outlines the history of forestry and forest management in Western Europe, giving the evolution of current practices in Germany, France, and Switzerland from the classical simplified management of Cotter, to the highly involved, *Methode du Contrôle*, which is now the hall mark of Swiss forestry.

