

## THE NATIONAL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.

[From the *Hants Independent*.]

I know each lane and every alley green,  
Dingle or bushy dell of this wild wood;  
And every bosky bourn from side to side,  
My whilom walks and ancient neighbourhood.

At a meeting of the New Forest Board of Guardians recently held, it was intimated that the memorial to the Government, praying that the National School of Forestry may be located in Hampshire, would be opposed in the interests of the commoners of the New Forest, and owing to an objection raised at the meeting the memorial was ordered to lie on the table.<sup>1</sup> There are other rumours that the Verderers mean, if they can, to prevent the National School of Forestry from having any connexion with, or concern in the New Forest, which means that the largest Crown Forest in the United Kingdom may go from bad to worse, and as far as the Verderers are concerned this is no business of theirs. If one considers how the question of the proposed National School of Forestry can possibly affect the interests which the Verderers are supposed to guard, some curious matter for reflection will be met with. The Verderer is commonly a squire, or retired officer of the army, or a lord, who lives somewhere in or near the forest. Why he should always be a squire, or a person of similar social quality, is, of course, a puzzle, and in view of the near approach of a popular form of county government, under which the management of county affairs will have to be mainly in the hands of popular representatives, the days of this class of Verderer are possibly numbered. When the New Forest Commoner has learnt how to manage county affairs, by electing men reflecting his own opinions on taxation, local government &c., he is not likely to be any longer obscured in his vision,

<sup>1</sup>The memorial was signed by Lord Basing, Official Verderer of the New Forest and Chairman of the Board of Verderers. Several public bodies in the county gave the memorial their support.

when the question of a reform in the management of the New Forest comes on and the Verderers have to be elected. Then some representatives more in harmony with the political feelings of the mass of commoners will have to come into office. Of course the Verderer's view of forests right is very different from the poor commoner's view. The Verderer and his friends are men who have got a footing on a good thing in the New Forest. They keep their ideas about the New Forest being their great park, and an artistic waste, and also that it is their shooting and hunting ground without cost on national land all to themselves. This is the forest gentry's private view of what the New Forest was clearly intended to be. The poor commoner, on the other hand, cannot attain to this enjoyment; for this is "too wonderful and excellent" for him. His talk is of oxen and swine, and turf, and a reasonable allowance of firewood. The forest gentry try to make the small commoner believe that they, too, are interested in these things, and that the commoners' interest is the same interest as that of the forest gentleman. Consequently, when any real or imaginary drawback to the forest gentleman's sport or enjoyment of the forest comes into view, then "society" in the forest is set in motion, and the commoner is roused, and told that his pasturage, his pannage, his turbarry, his reasonable allowance of firewood, are all in danger, and so he petitions that he may not be robbed, and the forest gentleman goes on his way rejoicing, for he has gained his point. Education, of course, will in time alter this, and teach the commoner that self-reliance and common-sense are his best friends, and that a plain, hard-working commoner, if he has intelligence about him, has as much right to be a Verderer as any gentleman in and about the forest. The time will come when the commoners will vote only for men of their own class, and they ought at once to have the ballot.

The National School of Forestry, if it could be in part connected with the New Forest, would be the very best thing for the commoner which has come to pass since "the good old days." Let the commoner ask himself what the Verderers and gentry of the Forest have done for education. They have done what they have been compelled by law to do. No wonder the bare possibility of such an educational establish-

ment as a National School of Forestry has caused a flutter among them. Such an establishment might open many fields for advancement to the commoners and their sons. They might learn real forestry—not the sham article which is now placed before them in the New Forest. The commoners and their sons would see how scientific forestry would make trees grow, and grow in the proper soil adapted for them, and cut them down where they are useless. After a time the younger men would find valuable appointments, if they chose, as working foresters to estates in other parts of England. At present, forestry, as practised in the New Forest, makes trees grow a little and then kills them in thousands, by expecting half-a-dozen trees to grow where there is room for only one. If any reader of this journal doubts this, let him visit some of the enclosures about Bartley, or Woodfidley, or Whitley Ridge, or Amberwood, or Linwood, and judge for himself. A pretty extensive walk he would have, for these places are many miles apart, but he will certainly be able to count thousands of dead young trees, or trees very nearly dead, in all these localities.

Let the commoners note this, that as soon as it is mentioned that a memorial is being got up asking for the Forestry School to remedy all this, then the gentry of the New Forest begin to talk of the commoners' rights being in danger. The National School of Forestry if established in the county would be a large institution, or a kind of college, in some town in Hampshire, where the students could study all such scientific knowledge as bears on forestry and trees, their nature, growth, and diseases, the nature of soils, climate, pasturage in forests and woodland, destructive insects, and such like. This is a long scientific business, and while they are studying this they would want to visit plantations, to see the different varieties of trees planted, acclimatised, and grown, not the vast useless inclosures we see in the New Forest now, but much smaller plantations on poor soil, as well as the better soil. These plantations might be in Woolmer Forest, or Alice Holt Forest, near Alton and Petersfield, or in Bere Forest, near Wickham, or in Parkhurst Forest, in the Isle of Wight, or in the New Forest. The scientific instructors in Forestry could not possibly teach their pupils anything from the immense fir-tree inclosures now in the New Forest. All they could do as

regards these would be to recommend that most of them be cut down and grubbed up, and that the light of heaven be once more allowed to reach the New Forest earth, for unless a young tree has plenty of light it cannot grow, any more than a young Verderer can grow without victuals. This is the proposition of the memorial concerning the National School of Forestry, which has roused the Forest gentleman to say to the New Forest commoner "I am your friend, not the National School of Forestry." A small proportion of the area of the useless fir-tree inclosures would be the utmost a scientific Forest school could require for its experimental work. Either those who would oppose these reforms are very ignorant or they are very insincere. If the gentry of the New Forest do not know that the work of a National School of Forestry would be beneficial work for the commoner, they must be very ignorant. If they do know what scientific forestry means, and yet try to persuade the commoners that their pasturage and pannage, &c., are in danger, then they must be acting a double part.

The New Forest has many visitors annually, but the people from all parts of England would visit it in much greater numbers if they knew that in some selected parts of it they could learn how to improve their own woodlands, and see small plantations of suitable trees adapted to grow on poor as well as on rich soils, for many parts of England want trees that will grow on poor soils. People don't want to come to see the hideous enclosures which now disfigure the New Forest. "Oh," but the gentry of the New Forest have been known to say, "We don't want any more people about; we have enough already." Exactly; and this looks like the true reason for their opposition, a policy which cannot live in these days—a dead policy, like the thousands of dead young oak trees killed by the thousands of dead fir trees. The public may come in summer and play "Aunt Sally" near the spot sacred to the memory of Rufus, but they are not wanted in those parts which in winter are the haunts of the woodcock, nor in those where snipe are accustomed to picnic. The fear, of course, is that scientific forestry would so clear the enclosures and the dense holly underwood which has killed the grass, that there would be no cover for game, and no shooting left. If the

inquisitive public of this town and county took to rambling in winter over such upland heaths as Hampton Ridge, Holmsley Ridge, or Dur Hill Down, it would soon be found out that they were damaging turf, or impairing other valuable common rights, for these and similar localities are sacred to snipe. If the public in winter took to rambling inquisitively through the dense inclosures to see how the hundreds of thousands of almost dead young oaks look, when they have not even the handful of leaves on their tops which may be seen in summer just keeping them alive, then it would be discovered that such visitors were damaging the commoners' firewood, for these enclosures are sacred to woodcock. We import annually £16,000,000 worth of timber at the present time, while a great deal more might be grown all over England. At present landed proprietors in all parts of England are obliged to turn their attention to the growth of timber and coppice wood owing to unexampled agricultural depression. Shall the Government of this kingdom be permitted for the benefit of the whole nation to cause forestry and timber growing to be illustrated experimentally on the Crown forests, and taught scientifically in a National School of Forestry, such as exists in all other European countries? The country is beginning to say "Yes" with a very loud voice. The New Forest gentry, who want to keep the Forest entirely for sport, and apparently see nothing in it that wants reform, are beginning to say "No" in a half-ashamed voice, and being half-ashamed, and because they cannot shout loud enough, they are crying out to the New Forest commoners "Why don't you shout"? Such, unfortunately, appears to be the attitude of the New Forest gentry on this important national question in which Hampshire could render such splendid service. If the commoners know what is good for their own interests they will shout on the other side, and ask for such reforms as scientific forestry only can give.

There are probably few sane people in the world who think that any Government which comprises an "*imperium in imperio*" is the best that could be devised. There are probably few sane people in the world who do not think such a Government is eminently unsatisfactory. It is such a government as this which exists in the New Forest. The *imperium* is

represented by the Verderers' Court, and the *imperio* is the Woods and Forest Department, represented by its resident and other officials. A slight difference of opinion sometimes, of course, arises between *imperium* and *imperio*, for what example is there in the history of the whole world of such a government which did not ultimately produce chaos? Even the two kings of Brentford did not always agree, and the unfortunate New Forest has experienced disastrous results from this dual system of government. Many people are aware that a cloud more or less persistent, between the private and public, the local and national interests in the New Forest, has hung over this forest for years. Of course, one is liable to the not too courteous remark that he knows little or nothing of what he writes, but few people would travel to the New Forest to learn manners or wisdom. Whether there is anything in a forest life that naturally produces boorishness or intellectual torpor, it is impossible to determine, but the average New Forester is not the most clear-headed man in the world when opposite questions are brought before him, although, of course, he is far above that state of things which formerly prevailed in old English forests in Shakespeare's day, when Jaques had a conversation with a queer man in the Forest (Shakespeare "As you like it," Act ii, Scene 7.) The writer would not have presumed to place these articles on New Forest forestry before the public, if he was not quite at home in the New Forest, from Godshill to Langley, and from No-Mans's-Land to Sway, or if he had not other sources of information. Within arm's reach, as he writes, are official and other reports, documents, and records relating to the New Forest, and within a few minutes' walk he can put his hands on other records, reports, and documents relating to the same forest, some of which have attached to them the Great Seal. It is idle therefore to say he can have little knowledge of what he writes.

When an ordinary manorial court is held it is not enough simply to claim common rights, but to be able if required to show that the claimant has exercised them. The large commoners in the New Forest claim common rights equally with the small commoners, but, as has been shown, they do not exercise them to any extent. It has, therefore, for many

years puzzled people to know why the New Forest should be practically under the influence of the large commoners, who, when any difference of opinion arises between them and the Woods and Forests appeal to Parliament, the Woods and Forests' master, of course in the interests of pasturage, and pannage, and turbary, which they do not to any extent exercise. That the real reasons which rouse the large commoners are sporting and residential reasons and considerations, are clearly seen by the origin of the "New Forest Association," which came into existence about 1867. It was admitted before the Select Committee on the New Forest, in 1875, that the New Forest Association "was formed in consequence of an endeavour that was made in the Crown Lands Bill in 1866, to repeal certain parts of the 10th George IV., chapter 50, for the purpose of leasing the shooting of the forest. These clauses were in the Bill of 1866, and passed the House of Commons, before anything was known of them, and were opposed by the Commoners in the House of Lords, and afterwards withdrawn." It is very sad, indeed, to think of the enormous injustice which would have been inflicted on the actual commoners, who exercise their common rights; if this iniquitous clause had become law. It is sad to think that it was necessary to rouse the real commoners, the men of one or two cows, to go to the House of Lords, and to have formed this New Forest Association to oppose this shooting clause. Yet such was the case. (Report from the Select Committee on New Forest, page 129). It is sad also to think that the revenue to the country from the New Forest shooting should not be as large as it is possible. It is sad, too, to think that a proposed clause which appeared to be just to the House of Commons, appeared to be unjust to the House of Lords; at least, the clause was withdrawn. On the other hand no impartial man will fail to admit that it will be a sad day for old England when the public interest in the national sports and pastimes begins to decay. If we are able to hold our own in the world, as our forefathers held their own, it must occasionally happen that our own will have to be held by our own right hands. There is nothing in our national character we could so ill spare, as our English love of sport, and all out door and athletic forms of exercise. Such exercises develop the best

physical powers of our race. On the other hand shams develop one of the worst forms of any national character. Don't let us mix shams up with the fine old English sports; such as are carried on in the New Forest as elsewhere. Scientific forestry, if applied to the New Forest, would not injure or interfere with its sporting or residential advantages at all, and the opinion has already been expressed that it would greatly benefit the small commoners. Then why mix up the defence of the sporting and residential interests in the forest with the sham that the richer commoners or gentry's interests in the forest are the same as the poor commoners' interests? The Verderers of the New Forest were formerly from time immemorial elected by the freeholders of the county at Winchester, but about ten years ago a change was made, and they are now elected at Lyndhurst. The county, as a whole, however, has not lost all its interest in this ancient office, and the constitution of the Court and the election of its members are local matters which will probably come under the jurisdiction of the County Council which is promised in the new County Government Bill. Nothing more need be said, therefore, on this subject, but readers may be interested in the form of oath taken by the Verderers from time immemorial. This oath is one which was applicable to all royal forests under the ancient forest laws of this kingdom, and is as follows:—

You shall truly serve our Soueraigne Lord the King in the office of Verderer in the forest of ( ). You shall to the uttermost of your power and knowledge, doe for the profit of the King, so farre as it doth appertaine unto you to doe. You shall preserve and maintaine the ancient rights and franchises of his Crowne; you shall not conceal from his Majestie any rights or priviledges, nor any offence either in vert or vension nor any other thing; you shall not withdraw or abridge any defaults, but shall endeour your selfe to manifest and redresse the same. And if you cannot doe that of your selfe, you shall give knowledge thereto unto the King, or unto his justice of the forest; you shall deale indifferently with all the King's liege people; you shall execute the laws of the forest, and doe equal right and justice, as well unto the poor as unto the rich, in that appertaineth unto your office; you shall not oppresse any person by colour thereof, for any reward, favour, or malice; and all these things you shall to the uttermost of your power observe and keepe, so helpe you God.

Notwithstanding that the spelling is scarcely equal to the standards of our educational code in these enlightened days, it will be admitted that this form of oath is a very interesting document. This oath being found inconvenient, was abolished about ten years ago.

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As regards the impediments which are placed by recent Acts of Parliament on the scientific management of the New Forest, let us hear what a gentleman says who perhaps may be allowed to have some knowledge of the Forest, viz., the Hon. Gerald Lascelles, the present Deputy Keeper :—

Everything in the shape of forest management is put a stop to, excepting the mere thinnings and maintaining of the plantations formed under certain Acts of Parliament. Thus there are to be seen by the student of forestry over 40,000 acres of waste land lying idle and worthless, which he will no doubt consider might well be brought under cultivation by planting, but by Clause 5 of the Act of 1877 no planting may be done there. He will see several fine old plantations of oak, planted for purposes of profit, which are not only ripe and mature, but which are going back rapidly, and he will wonder why the crop is not realised and the ground replanted, till he is referred to Clause 6 of the same Act, by which he will see that the ground may not be cleared of its crop. Last, and worst of all, he will see some 4,500 acres of the most beautiful old woods in the country, most of which are dying back, and steadily going to "wreck and ruin." These woods afford the finest possible field for renewal by natural reproduction, and ought no doubt to be most carefully protected; but here again absolutely nothing can be done, and it is for these reasons that M. Boppe and Colonel Pearson are obliged to say that a professor of forestry can teach his pupils nothing in this forest. It seems to me to be so strange an anomaly that a Committee of the House of Commons should be considering the question of expending a large sum of public money in order to establish a school in which the science of forestry may be learned, while at the same time all practice of that science is, as far as possible, interdicted in the chief State possession where it could be exercised, and where it is most urgently needed, that I have ventured to trouble the Committee with these remarks. (Appendix to Report from the Select Committee on Forestry, 1887, page 137.)

As regards another impediment by Act of Parliament, Mr. Lascelles says :—

I trust I may be excused if I add to this memorandum a few words on this subject, because surely the condition of what is by far the largest and most important of our State forests may well engage a small portion of the attention of a committee dealing with forestry as a matter of national importance. That this grand national property is, from a forester's point of view, in a most unfortunate condition, is no doubt true, but it is probably not well known how the management of the forest has been fettered and impeded by various Acts of Parliament, passed sometimes under a mistaken view of the Crown's interest, but at other times in favour of the interests of the commoners which must naturally militate against cultivation of trees in every form. Thus both M. Boppe and Colonel Pearson remark upon a large area, planted with oak alone, which

has failed, and, as they think, for the reason that it was so planted under mistaken management. The facts, however, are that in former years, planting was, as now, opposed by private interests in the forest, and therefore only enforced for the essential reason that timber for the use of the Navy must be provided. Oak only might therefore be planted, and the whole of each plantation was so planted. Where oak could grow it was the better for the nation, but where it failed, and on so poor a soil it very frequently did fail, it was better for the local commoners. Had the managers of that day been at liberty to select the trees most suitable to the soil they were allowed to plant, no doubt they would have done it, and were probably very capable of doing so. (Appendix Select Committee on Forestry, 1887, page 137.)

We may not agree with all that the Deputy-keeper says in these passages, but at least his statements deserve serious consideration. The justice of the small Commoners' rights is indisputable, and so are the facts that the larger Commoners' interests in the Forest are in the main different from the small Commoners, and that when the larger Commoners, *i.e.*, the Forest gentry, think it necessary to do something in the interests of sport, the value of residential property, and so forth, they begin to evince a profound interest in pasturage, pannage, turbarry, and a reasonable allowance of firewood. The gentry of the Forest, as a rule, do not turn out cattle or pigs at pannage time, or cut turf, although, of course, a reasonable allowance of firewood is not always declined. Perhaps it is but human nature to look to our own interests first, but it is very desirable that we should call those interests by their proper names.

When we think of the distressed condition of the landed interests through the length and breadth of our country, of the thousands of our ruined farmers, of the depopulation of our agricultural parishes, of landowners on the verge of bankruptcy, of diminished rents, or no rents from utter inability to pay any, of our half-starved clergy who depend on returns from land, and of the causes which force labourer and artisan, farmer and landlord alike to seek new homes in distant lands, and some of these things have come home to us, it becomes every man who has a word to say for his country's benefit to say that word without fear or favour. The adoption of better methods of forestry in this country appear to afford a little hope for the future, and the possible introduction into England of valuable foreign trees yielding substances of value to the manufacturer,

to afford a further hope. It is no business of the writer's to instruct anyone in forestry, but for the reasons named the proposition of scientific forestry should be supported, and the limited use for experimental arboriculture of the Crown forests of Hampshire, with all just regard for vested interests and the Commoners' rights.

Ye olden oaks, deep clad in greenness vernal,  
With summer's sunlight on your rugged brows,  
Methinks I hear the voice of the Eternal  
Go out amid the music of your boughs.  
I come from life's fierce conflict, from its toil unending,  
Awhile to rest me where no care intrudes,  
And feel my soul in quickened pulses blending  
With kindred souls that dwell in solitudes.  
O gentle spirit that afar art hiding  
In unfrequented wilds of wood and glen,  
Do thou, as in these tranquil haunts abiding,  
Dwell in the homes and in the haunts of men.

The more we study the history of the management of the New Forest, and compare this history with that larger history connected with the government of the country at large, the stronger will grow our conviction that the local forest politics, and the stage on which they are played, do not differ essentially from that larger stage on which National politics are performed. Of course people may hold very different opinions about the one, as people hold entirely opposite views about the other; and as men's minds and their reasoning powers differ, these opposite views may of course both be sincere views. It is quite conceivable that there are people living in and about the New Forest, who see nothing in it that wants reform, and who cannot see that any of those persons who fill public offices in connexion with its management are in any way responsible for its present condition. If we are to believe, in reference to local forest politics, that none of the richer commoners think of influencing the opinions or votes of their poorer neighbours, on questions affecting forest management, then we must acknowledge that the forest stage of local politics is far and away superior to that larger stage on which our National politics are performed.

It is well that we should clearly understand why in the New Forest it is the smaller commoners who chiefly exercise their common rights, and not the larger farmers and others who may have these privileges. The reason is plain. It would not

suit the larger commoners, whether large farmers or resident gentry, to turn out well-bred cattle into the Forest. The natural cattle of the district, and the ponies of the district, are the only animals that will thrive on the Forest pasture. If animals that have a pedigree, and are well-bred, are turned out, they will die, and for this reason, the small commoner's interest in the Forest is in the main different from the resident gentleman's interest in it. This is the case also in the matter of turbary, or turf cutting, a valuable common right to the poor commoner, but to him alone. The large commoner has little or no real interest in it, and we must remember that there are 30,000 acres of heathland, out of a total of 63,000 acres in the New Forest. The use of this heathland, whether for grazing or for turf cutting, is the small commoner's question alone. The forest gentleman who does not burn turf has only a sporting interest in it.

In 1875 the Commoners of the New Forest united in a petition to Parliament, signed by about 1,200 of them, and led of course by the forest gentry, who are the large commoners, praying that they might not be robbed, but we have not heard that any greater result was obtained than some small concession about winter grazing. No substantial concession was obtained concerning the present great inclosures, and nothing was done to prevent the great undergrowth of holly in the unenclosed parts of the Forest which formerly the deer kept down, but which during recent years has killed so much grass. If the Forest gentry have been unable to do more than this for the Commoners, perhaps through no fault of their's, would it not be desirable now to try what scientific Forestry could do, and join unanimously in advocating that the National School of Forestry be connected in part with the New Forest? It is very probable that if some unanimous expression of opinion of the sort came from the New Forest, the request would be granted. Let us see what advantage this would be. First of all National money would be spent in the Forest, instead of, as now, being taken out of it. No more land could be enclosed, seeing this is forbidden by Act of Parliament, and when some important National advantage could be shown, all the revenue produced by the New Forest, and more besides, might be spent upon it. The great inclosures which are so

much in want of thinning might then be taken in hand, and gradually be prepared for being thrown open. The Crown officials who have charge of the Forest probably find it difficult to get as much money spent upon it as they would wish, and so much urgent work is probably neglected. We do not think we are unreasonable in asking the Commoners what the Verderers have been able to do for them, or in asking the Verderers why they have been unable to do more? These questions are matters of public importance, and as such should be considered calmly. Now the average New Forester is not perhaps the calmest man in the world. Sometimes he indulges in strong language, and he has even been known to use bad words, but in considering this subject it is not desirable to do this. The Verderers of the New Forest could do no greater service to the Forest, and to those entitled to Common rights upon it, than by themselves promoting a petition to Government on the subject of scientific forestry, either as part of a National School of Forestry, or entirely independent of it. If in connection with such a Forestry school, they would have the whole weighty support of its scientific staff of professors and instructors acting with them in influencing the Government.

If any reader of this essay chooses to wander as an unknown individual through the New Forest, no man has any right to demand to know who he is, or why he comes there, while he is examining and criticising the management of this National property, of which as a citizen of this country he is, of course, a part owner. If he thinks fit to do so he can choose his own time for telling people, if they care to know, who he is. He has even a right, without first calling on the Deputy Keeper or leaving his card, to walk anonymously through the drift ways of the enclosures, and count, if he can, the dead young oak trees, killed by the dead or half-dead conifers. He will be a man with quite an arithmetical turn of mind, if he is patient enough to make the long calculations necessary to know how many of the young trees in the enclosures are now quite dead, and how many are nearly dead, and how many, according to the theory of probabilities, might have been alive now, if the nursing trees had been thinned out a sufficient number of years ago.

The subject of thinning out of the Forest enclosures is one of much practical importance. Although no hard and fast rules can be laid down, yet scientific forestry tells us that a guiding principle should be to prevent the nursing trees from overtopping the young oaks, and to give every such permanent young tree room enough to enable it so to grow as to produce a healthy and well-proportioned head, which ought to be equal in length to about one-half of the height of the entire tree. The thinning out of nursing trees should always be lighter round the outer sides of the enclosures, and especially so on those sides which are towards the directions of prevailing winds. A thicker belt of trees than would otherwise be necessary should be left on those outer margins of the plantations where the force of the wind is the greatest. The process of thinning should never leave long stems, with only a tuft of branches on the top, exposed to the force of the wind, but the leafy canopy should be preserved in the permanent young tree, by which it is enabled to grow and develop, for the leaves are the organs of a tree through which it chiefly grows, by the aid of the mineral matter and moisture absorbed by the roots.

When a visitor to the New Forest compares the open forest woodlands and enclosures, with the open park woodlands and enclosures which belong to private owners, the contrast is a very painful one. In the forest open glades many trees would grow better if others were removed, to give them more room, as is done in a private park. The contrast between the enclosures in the forest and similar enclosures on private estates adjoining the Crown property is still more marked. In the private woods the thinning out is, on the whole, carefully attended to. When we consider, however, the restrictions which are placed by Acts of Parliament on the management of the New Forest, no impartial person can fail to regret these restrictions, under which scientific forestry becomes impossible in the New Forest. One of these Acts says, that the expenses of making and preserving the plantations are to be paid "by the sale of decayed and other trees, other than ship-timber trees." Of course labour can only be employed in thinning out the trees and attending to the enclosures, to the amount of the money which can thus be raised. Although

oak is not much required now for ships, and therefore a larger revenue might be expected from its sale for other purposes, yet this is probably not the case, for at the present time oak is a drug in the timber market, whereas ash fetches a good price. This latter wood is not grown much in the New Forest, but grows well on the stiff clayland of Alice Holt Forest. If instruction in scientific Forestry should be carried on hereafter in Hampshire, it is well, therefore, to understand that other Crown lands in this county are more suitable for some kinds of timber than any part of the New Forest.

O, the woodman's craft is a goodly craft,  
He sings through sun and showers,  
As strong and brown as his hatchet's haft,  
As simple as the flowers.  
Of pleasures and toil he nothing lacks  
As he carols his song and swings his axe,  
In spring-decked forest bowers.  
A goodly craft and a gentle craft,  
And a craft no evil fearing,  
Is theirs who live by helve and haft,  
Where thickets are for clearing.  
As the goodman's hatchet swings aloft,  
And the good wife sings from the binding croft,  
When summer days are nearing.

Mr. T. W. Shore supported the resolution, and drew attention to the scientific and geological aspects of the question. He described the scientific principles relating to the growth of trees, how that the chief vital parts of the tree with regard to its growth are the leaves, and instanced this by stating that the weight of a piece of dry timber, *minus* the weight of the ashes when it was burnt, represented a great loss, but this revealed the weight of the material taken in by the leaves. How utterly impossible it was, therefore, for trees to grow if they were deprived of sufficient light and air. With regard to the geological aspects, certainly no equal area of England could surpass the Crown forest parts of Hampshire in the variety of its soil, and it was probable that these soils were far superior in variety to those of any other equal area. As an illustration the stiff clay lands of the Gault, the London clay, the Reading beds, the Bracklesham and Barton clays, might be mentioned as suitable for the growth of oak and other woods; the calcareous loams such as existed in parts of the New Forest, and especially on the clay slopes of the chalk hills, were especially adapted for beech, as might be seen in many chalk

districts; while the sandy soils were particularly suitable for different varieties of fir trees. As regarded Schools of Forestry, they existed already in every European country except our own, but he had full confidence in the English people that when they were completely awakened to the importance of this question the future National School of Forestry, adapted to the wants of the home country and the British empire, would be not merely equal to, but, judging from what was done when they were thoroughly convinced of the necessity of the thing, would probably be organised on a superior basis to any at present existing (hear, hear). The training of foresters in such a school would necessarily have to be of two kinds—first, elementary instruction to practical working men, who should certainly know something about the actual work in which they were engaged; and, secondly, the highest form of scientific instruction bearing upon the subject to superintendents of forest-lands, land-stewards over great estates, skilled surveyors, and others more or less connected with wood-land management. For the instruction of these latter, it would be necessary to have professors of the highest skill, each eminent in his particular subject, such as a special professor of the technics of forestry, laying out plantations, and keeping them in proper order at the different periods of the trees' growth; a botanical professor, whose business it would be to teach the physiological properties of trees, their vital functions, their microscopic tissues, their diseases, and other matters of this kind; a geological professor, who would treat upon the composition of the soils, their nature how derived, their adaptability, and other technical matters; a chemical professor, whose business it would be to take up all matters of chemistry which might arise in connection with the trees or their soils in such forestry operations. There would also be required other high-class instructors to which he need not then allude. Regarding their own special county, Mr. Shore expressed an urgent hope that the people of Hampshire would be before this matter was finally disposed of entirely unanimous on the subject. He was glad to inform the honourable House that at the present moment they were practically unanimous (hear, hear), the memorial being supported by all the Corporations of the county, so far as he knew, including Portsmouth and Win-

chester, led by the Town Council of Southampton—all honour be to them. It was also supported by many educational bodies, by corporations owning great estates, such as the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, and by commercial corporations such as the Portsmouth and Southampton Chambers of Commerce. Hampshire was still indeed the forest county of England, as it had always been in the past. In ancient days it was one great forest, broken by open stretches of chalk down and heath lands, and extending in primeval days even into the river estuaries, as they now saw in the Dock extension at Southampton, where they found the remains of the same kind of trees as were now growing not far away. Leaving the practical consideration of the question, additional time being accorded to Mr. Shore by acclamation, he touched briefly upon the historical associations connected with Hampshire forests, beginning with those of Chute, north of Andover, now entirely deforested. Standing on Inkpen Beacon, he said, about 1,000 feet above the sea, looking eastward and southward, the eye took in the country of the great ancient Forest of Chute. Five hundred feet below, down the steep declivity, might be seen the village church of Combe, which, with the manor, was given by the Conqueror to swell the revenues of his favourite great abbey of Bec, in Normandy. Further to the south lay Finkley, and here, it was said, that one of the last parts of this old forest land was given by Charles II. to reward General Monk. Still further to the south lay Harewood, with the Roman road passing through it, going straight as an arrow from Winchester to Cirencester; a road which might still be followed, and near which was the site called Deadman's Plack, where Edgar, a thousand years ago, slew Earl Ethelwulf in a fit of jealousy and love. Still further to the south, and to the east of Winchester, was the old forest land of West Bere, of which they had many entries in the national records. Its custody went with the manor of Ashley, and was held in the thirteenth century by the Despencers, one of whom was a favourite of Edward II. Close by was a bit of forest still existing called Parnholt Wood, which, in former days, was attached to the manor of King Somborne, and a grant was made here for hunting purposes to no less a man than John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster. To the west of King

Somborne, on the other side of the Test, and stretching from it to the county border of Wilts, was the old forest land of Buckholt, which in ancient documents was described as part of the forest of Clarendon, the place where the councils were held lying two or three miles over the Hampshire border. In the east of the county they saw the forest lands of Alice Holt and Wolmer. This was at one time in the custody of the family of Chaucer, the poet, the residence of the warden being at East Woodham. The destruction which these two forests had seen had probably been greater than that of any other Hampshire forests. They once had in this county a king who was sometimes described as "his most religious majesty," but who was better known as Charles II. This king had left many descendants, some of whom now figured amongst their nobility. A lady who was, he believed, one of those dependent on him was Mrs. Ruperta Howe, and to this lady about the end of the 17th century the then king granted the custody of these two forests. Now, Mrs. Ruperta Howe had had no particular knowledge of forestry, nor, as far as he had been able to ascertain, any desire to acquire it. She desired to make as much out of the forests under her care as possible, and on many occasions she was successful in negotiating the sale of the timber under her care for a great price to the Government, to whom, of course, it actually belonged. In this way she obtained a very considerable revenue, but the result was that the entire forest of Wolmer was destroyed, so that when her patent—which was for so many years, and was finished by her executors—expired, Wolmer forest was treeless, as described by Gilbert White in his History of Selborne. Mr. Shore said he would not detain the honourable House further except briefly to support the arguments used by the Prime Minister and the deputy-leader of the Opposition, and to endorse their opinion that no part of England could render such great service in this subject to the country at large as Hampshire. Their forests in ancient times were the playgrounds of kings, and the hunting fields of princes. He urged the House to join with the public bodies of Hampshire, its scientific institutions and societies, and other representative boards, in pressing this question on the Government, being resolved that so far as they could ensure it these ancient forests

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should in the future days of enlightenment and progress be turned to noble uses, and serve to promote the well-being of the whole community, and the prosperity of their great country (applause). He urged that Hampshire should press its strong claim; otherwise they might see the spectacle of the Forest School for this great empire attempting to teach Forestry without any forests (laughter). This was no imaginary anticipation, for at the present time two institutions were pressing their claims to have the National School of Forestry attached to them, viz, the Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, where practical forestry would be taught in connection with some trees at Windsor, and the Royal Agricultural College, at Cirencester, where they would teach practical forestry on some trees in Lord Bathurst's park. That House, he argued, should press on this county to brush aside these contending institutions, and boldly claim the prize and honour (applause).

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