

Australian forestry has long since been looked upon as the worst in the civilized world. Compared to its size, Australia never had any large area of good forest, and owing to the want of forest demarcation the greater portion of that has been destroyed with the larger area of worthless forest. A calculation in my "Australian Forestry" gives official figures showing that the loss to that country from the present bad forestry at the end of thirty years will amount, with interest at 4 per cent., to somewhere near £588,000,000. Thirty years is taken because that would be the least time within which the forests might be got into working-order. Australia is paying three millions and a half yearly for imported timber now, and five millions is the estimate for a few years ahead. "Demarcate, demarcate," said every Indian forester who visited Australia in the "seventies" and "eighties," but the advice fell on deaf ears. The penalty is now being paid.

Nevertheless, Australia has at last made considerable advance in forest demarcation. In Victoria 4,000,000 acres have now been definitely demarcated and set aside as the national forests. New South Wales expects to have 5,000,000 acres similarly demarcated at the end of this year. South Australia, besides demarcation, has a good forest-redemption Act, and is gradually buying back areas that were lost owing to want of forest demarcation in the bad old days of no forestry. Queensland and West Australia have at the head of their forest administrations fully trained and qualified professional foresters, and naturally they are doing all that is possible to forward forest demarcation in their States. It is only Tasmania that is like New Zealand in not yet having begun forest demarcation.

The example of reckless forest alienation and destruction in North America has doubtless had an unfortunate influence on the forest policy of New Zealand. But the United States of America began forest demarcation on a large scale in the early days of President Roosevelt's administration, and now thinks it has reached the limit of its forest destruction with eleven thirty-eighths, or nearly one-third, of its total area still under forest (Professors Moon and Brown in "Elements of Forestry, 1915"). Of its total forest area 21 per cent. is "national forest" under the management of the Forest Department. It is thus clear that in spite of all the reckless destruction of forest that has taken place the United States to-day is in a far better position than New Zealand. The United States has been buying back one forest area, the Southern Appalachians, at a cost of about half a million sterling yearly. This is the penalty, in one locality only, for having had no forest demarcation in the past.