

**PROFESSIONAL FORESTRY EDUCATION.**

*(A paper read by C. E. Lane Poole, Conservator of Forests, Western Australia, at the Hobart Forestry Conference, 1920.)*

The Perth Conference in 1917 resolved: "That it be a recommendation from this Conference that the Commonwealth establish an institution for education in forestry and forestry research work." What has been done in this matter? I fear, nothing. That Conference discussed the whole question very fully, and arrived at the unanimous decision that there was only room for one forestry school in the Commonwealth, and that the school should be a Federal institution. So far as Western Australia is concerned, the position is becoming desperate, for it is impossible for me to find trained men to take charge of the various districts and initiate and carry out the silvicultural work for which the jarrah and karri forests are crying out. The alternative to a Commonwealth forest school, viz., a forest lectureship at the Western Australian University, has been

urged by many in that State, but I have set my face against this proposal, being of the opinion that lectureships in forestry attached to universities do not give the best results, and that, if each State establishes them, Australia will end by having six third-rate forest courses, which will cost as much as, if not more than, one first-class school of forestry. The time has come when definite steps should be taken to establish a Federal school. The forest heritage of the whole Commonwealth amounts to about 40,000 square miles. This area in its present condition—mainly wild forest—is inadequate to supply Australian needs. If the forests are to be converted into tended forests, and so brought to that pitch of production that they will yield enough timber for local demands, then forestry must be practised throughout the length and breadth of the continent. The majority of States now have adequate legislation for the purpose in view; indeed, I doubt whether any land can boast so much forest legislation and so little forestry. The reason at the bottom of this lack of forestry is the absence of an adequate system of forest education for

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