PROGRESS IN FORESTRY UNDER STATE CONTROL.*

In the steps that are now being taken by the State of Michigan looking towards the establishment of a permanent forest policy the recent experience of other States cannot fail to be instructive. In the development of a great public movement in which so much is untried and unforeseen, mistakes are certain to occur, but the chance of their occurrence may be lessened by taking account of the history of similar movements elsewhere. Accordingly, the forestry laws of several States have been reviewed by the writer, and an attempt has also been made, from a comparison of these and a consideration of conditions there existing, to gather such hints as may be available in our own State. It has been thought best to limit this study to the five States, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Minnesota, both because they approach Michigan more closely than others in physical conditions and because by far the greatest progress in the development of a forest policy has been made in those States.

The conditions in New England and the Southern Atlantic States are so far different from our own as to be valuable chiefly in a general way rather than in the solution of special problems; the great agricultural

* A review of forestry legislation and conditions in the Central and Northern States, prepared for the Michigan Forestry Commission.