# FOREST MENSURATION. TABLES FOR MEASURING LOGS, TREES AND THE GROWTH OF STANDS

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R. T. FISHER & H. O. COOK

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# FOREST MENSURATION

## TABLES FOR MEASURING LOGS, TREES AND THE GROWTH OF STANDS

BY

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE FORESTER

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THE HARVARD FOREST

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## INTRODUCTION.

In 1908 the State Forester published, under the title "Forest Mensuration of the White Pine," a booklet containing most of the data on the white pine included in this bulletin. A second edition was published in 1911, and as that is now exhausted a third edition seems necessary. Since the original investigation of the white pine was made the Department has also collected similar data on other species, and the Department of Forestry at Harvard University has in its research work published a large amount of information along similar lines. It seemed to the Commissioner of Conservation that these tables, many of which are very valuable and interesting to the forest owner, should be made available for use of the general public by including them with the original material. Director R. T. Fisher of the Harvard Forest has very graciously accepted this suggestion, and has turned his material over to us for use in this bulletin. To Mr. H. O. Cook, M.F., the author of the original bulletin on white pine mensuration, has been assigned the task of compiling and editing the present publication.

WM. A. L. BAZELEY,
*Commissioner of Conservation.*

# FOREST MENSURATION.

## THE BOARD FOOT.

The unit of measure on which sawed lumber is almost universally sold in the United States is the board foot, which is a board 12 inches square and 1 inch thick. In southeastern Massachusetts, however, they have a practice of sawing lumber five-eighths inch thick, and they call a board foot a board which is 12 inches square and only five-eighths inch in thickness. The variation is often the cause of some misunderstanding by those who are ignorant of the local system. The number of board feet in any given piece of lumber is obtained by multiplying the product of the width and thickness in inches by the length in feet, and dividing by 12. For instance, a plank 8 inches wide, 2 inches thick, and 12 feet long will figure as follows: $\frac{2' \times 8'' \times 12'}{12} = 16$ board feet. Professional scalers have a board rule which is laid across the width of a board, and on the rule are given the board-feet contents of that particular width and length, provided it is 1 inch thick. If, however, it happens to be thicker, say $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches instead of 1, the scale as indicated on the rule must be increased 50 per cent to allow for the additional thickness. The scaling of square-edge lumber with straight and parallel sides is a mere mechanical process, but it happens that most of our native lumber cut in Massachusetts is sawed through and through, with the bark left on the edges. Such lumber is narrower on one face than on the other, and the board is