

PART I.
Reports, 1874 :
Otago.

BUSH in the NORTHERN DISTRICTS which has been DESTROYED by FIRE or CLEARING.
(Approximately.)

No. 3.

| District. | | | | | Public. | Private. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|---------|----------|--------|
| Otepopo. | Otepopo Bush... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 100 | 106 |
| | Block VIII. ... | ... | ... | ... | 70 | 100 | 170 |
| | " IX. ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 | 120 | 210 |
| | " X. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 30 |
| | " XIII., XIV. ... | ... | ... | ... | 200 | ... | 200 |
| | Kuri Bush ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 | 200 | 500 |
| Moeraki. | Port Moeraki ... | ... | ... | ... | 90 | ... | 90 |
| | Blocks I., XI., XII., XIV. ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 | 50 | 200 |
| | Block XIII. ... | ... | ... | ... | 180 | ... | 180 |
| | Gorge of Waihemo ... | ... | ... | ... | 200 | ... | 200 |
| | Puketapu ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 | 45 | 105 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Hawksbury. | Mount Royal ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 | 50 | 90 |
| | Kennard's ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 | 40 | 100 |
| | Goodwood ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 30 |
| | Matainaca and Tumai ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| | Hawksbury Bush ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 | 300 | 600 |
| | Mount Watkins ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 | ... | 80 |
| Waikouaiti. | Along the Coast ... | ... | ... | ... | 400 | 300 | 700 |
| | Outside the Hundreds, S. } Waikouaiti R. ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| North Harbour and Blueskin ... | | | | | ... | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Dunedin and East Taieri. | { Saddle Hill ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 | ... | 50 |
| | { Taieri Plain, Mosgiel ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 | 150 |
| | { Silver Stream ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 | ... | 80 |
| | { Above Lee Stream ... | ... | ... | ... | 100 | ... | 100 |
| West Taieri. | Maungatua Bush, Woodside ... | ... | ... | ... | 150 | 70 | 220 |
| | Traquair " ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 | 20 | 70 |
| | Maungatua Gullies ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 20 | 40 |
| | Waipori Bush... ... | ... | ... | ... | 300 | 60 | 360 |
| | Ranges South of Waipori ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 | 30 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Maitapapa, Maori Village ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 80 | 80 |
| | Moeraki Bush... ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 20 |
| | Kuri Bushes, B.V., including Maori Reserve ... | ... | ... | ... | 60 | 100 | 160 |
| | Block I. ... | ... | ... | ... | 20 | 30 | 50 |
| | Block II. ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 | 20 | 70 |
| | | | | | 3,106 | 11,965 | 15,071 |

4. There are three saw-mills; one in Maungatua bush, which yields a rent of £10, and two at Waipori bush, from which £45 and £50 respectively were derived.

5. There have been twenty-seven sawyers' licenses issued. Nearly all the holders of these licenses, with very few exceptions, have been occupied in splitting fencing.

6. The revenue derived from twenty-seven sawyers' licenses is £135; from twenty-two settlers' fencing and firewood licenses, £55; seventy-nine firewood licenses, £79; three saw-mill licenses, 80: total, £349.

7. The reckless use of timber and fire are the chief causes of the destruction of the bushes. I have heard of men who have entered a bush and felled all the pick of the timber before commencing to split or saw. In many cases more trees have been felled than were required, and of course they were left to decay. When the dry top of a fallen tree is found lying across a track desired to be made, a fire-stick is applied, regardless of consequences. In this way large tracks of valuable bush have been destroyed.

8. Very little indeed has been replaced by planting.

9. I do not know of any timber replaced by planting on public lands.

10. There is no difference in the climate caused by the clearing away of bush in my district worthy of notice, as the bushes are very limited, and in patches, and far apart. There is no doubt that the draining of land and burning off of rough herbage has improved the climate in many localities.

11. I do not think that, for building purposes, fencing, and public works—if other supplies were cut off—there would be more than seven or ten years' supply at the outside. For firewood