

Little improvement has taken place in the timber industry in the northern portion of the Nelson District, or in the Inangahua County, during the year. In the Buller County, however, an improvement is noticeable. In northern Nelson the mills are of small capacity, and the scarcity of timber does not warrant expenditure in re-establishing plants with modern equipment.

Recent bush fires have hastened the extinction of the industry in this portion of the district, about 600 acres of good milling forest on private property and 2,000 acres of State forest having been destroyed.

In Buller County the majority of the mills are working continuously, and large quantities of timber are exported therefrom to other districts of the Dominion, especially from Karamea. Nearly all the mills in this county cut timber off Crown lands, royalty being paid at schedule rates. An important consideration in relation to the Crown forests in Buller County is the preservation of areas for mining purposes. The expansion of the coal-mining industry in this portion of the Dominion has induced the Land Board to preserve areas of forest for the supply of timber to the mines.

The revenue derived from royalty on timber in this district during the year was £2,850, and, taking last year's revenue for comparison, Nelson District stands third in value of importance in the Dominion in respect to the milling industry, Auckland and Westland taking precedence.

Uses to which the different kinds of Trees grown in the State Plantations may be put.

The accompanying table gives an interesting description of the uses to which the timber of the trees now being grown in the State nurseries and plantations may eventually be put. It will be noticed that the number of trees shown as planted—viz., 18,300,779—does not agree with the numbers given in the report of Mr. Matthews for the past year; but this is accounted for by the fact that the return was made up during last year, and the totals therein given are those growing on the 31st March, 1907, not 1908.

Name of Tree.	Number planted.	Uses for which the different kinds of Trees are suitable.
Acacia melanoxylon ..	45,435	Furniture, shop-fittings, pianos, railway purposes, billiard-tables, &c.
Acer saccharum ..	3,625	Furniture, shoe-last, flooring, and general purposes (sap is made into sugar).
„ pseudo-platanus ..	485,211	Turnery, furniture, boxes, dairy utensils, blocks and pulleys.
Æsculus hippocastanum ..	2,232	Cabinetmaking, sides and bottoms of carts, general turnery.
Alnus gultinosa ..	67,518	Barrel-staves, boxes, general purposes under ground or under water.
Retula alba ..	210,540	Cabinetmaking, turnery, barrel-staves, crates, brooms, &c.
Castanea sativa ..	15,911	Furniture, flooring, interior work, posts, rails, &c.
Catalpa speciosa ..	222,575	Furniture, posts, sleepers, and telephone-poles.
Cupressus Lawsoniana ..	23,700	Flooring, sleepers, fencing, and general lumber.
Eucalypti (species) ..	2,196,544	Used generally for all constructive works where durability is essential; also for sleepers, posts, wheels, and other purposes where strength is required, telegraph-poles.
Fraxinus Americana ..	1,775	Boat-oars, cabinetmaking, coachbuilding, agricultural implements, tool-handles, &c.
„ excelsior ..	578,175	Ditto.
Juglans cineria ..	2,651	Chiefly furniture and pianos, gun-stocks, billiard-tables, clocks, &c.
„ nigra ..	4,952	Ditto.
„ regia ..	61,424	„
Knightia excelsa ..	200	Furniture.
Larix Europæa ..	5,275,460	Railway-sleepers, posts, boat and bridge building, pit-props, and general farm purposes.
„ leptolepis ..	2,850	Ditto.
Picea excelsa ..	1,165,998	General constructive purposes, flooring, scaffolding, masts, spars, packing-cases, casks, pit-props, wood-pulp, &c.
„ sitchensis ..	153,993	Ditto.
„ Canadensis ..	1,400	„
Pinus Austriaca ..	3,085,926	Used generally for all constructive purposes both inside and outside buildings, packing-cases, butter-boxes, shelving, pattern-making, posts, sleepers, &c.
„ Canariensis ..	1,025	Ditto.
„ contorta ..	1,090	„
„ coulterii ..	605	„
„ densiflora ..	2,325	„
„ excelsa ..	100	„
„ halapensis ..	66,575	„
„ Jeffreyi ..	3,693	„
„ Lambertiana ..	1,250	„