

Soil and Land Classification.

A reconnaissance of some 23,000 acres of State and provisional State forest situated on the watershed between the Rotorua, Thames Valley, and Bay of Plenty districts was carried out. The land, with exception of 741 acres in two small blocks, was declared more suited to forestry than settlement uses. 3,300 acres in the region of the Mamaku Plateau would be excellent grazing-country were it not subject to bush sickness. Through the soil being too poor, and the certainty of rapid deterioration, the remaining 19,700 acres were considered to offer no proposition as settlement lands.

The ever-increasing area of lands once forested, some 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 acres, and now deteriorated to the stage where farming will not give sufficient return to meet interest, rates, taxes, cost of working, and living-expenses, makes the classification of our remaining forested areas a matter of pressing importance.

Trounson Kauri Park.

The control of this valuable and important scenic park was transferred during the year to the Lands and Survey Department; and, though the Service had initiated measures for the protection of this national monument from fire and exposure, much remains to be done in this direction.

2. FINANCE.

The total gross revenue paid into the State Forests Account during the year amounted to £65,067 15s. 2d., of which amount plantations and nurseries contributed £7,413. Compared with last year's figures the revenue shows the highly satisfactory increase of £34,231 7s. 9d., or 111 per cent., and an increase of 230·3 per cent. over the receipts for 1920-21.

State Forest Service expenditure for the year was as follows:—

Annual State Forest Service Expenditures.

(See Annexure for details.)

Item.	Fiscal Year ended	
	31st March, 1923.	31st March, 1922.
	£	£
A. Salaries	30,092	31,194
B. Management and development of the 7,336,000 acres of State forest ..	13,799	17,552
C. Forest-fire prevention and patrol (indigenous forest)	1,808	1,035
D. Education: Reference library, publications, &c.	574	848
E. Forest research	2,224	999
F. Afforestation: Plantations, nurseries, and general	35,155	47,371
G. Acquisition of indigenous forests	1,064	7,173
H. Grants and miscellaneous	694	1,410
	85,410	107,582

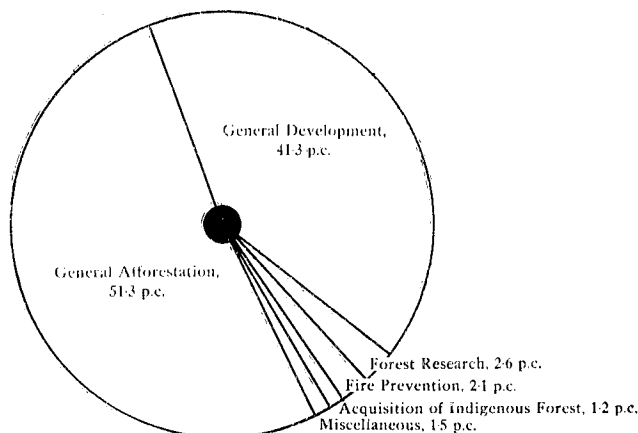
Explanatory Notes on Expenditure for 1922-23.

Items A, B, C, D, E.—The total management charge for the State Forest estate was at the rate of 1·3d. per acre, including a proportion of item A.

Item F.—2,862 acres of trees were planted and 44,646 acres of growing plantation protected, compared with 3,408 acres planted and 41,868 acres protected during the previous year. The great decrease of £12,215 in this item is explained by the temporary halt in planting operations, reductions in wages, and general economy.

Item G.—Economies made during the year on account of the financial stringency explain the decrease in this item. There are large areas of densely timbered lands which should be added by purchase to the State Forest estate.

Item H.—This item includes one grant to a municipality for tree-planting purposes.



GRAPHIC EXPOSÉ, STATE FOREST SERVICE EXPENDITURE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1923.