

ANNEXURES.

ANNEXURE I.—STATE AND PROVISIONAL STATE FORESTS AND FOREST RESERVES.

AREA IN ACRES AT END OF FISCAL YEAR, 1923.

Land District.	Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year 1922.			Changes in Area during the Fiscal Year 1922-23: Net Increase in Acres.			Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year 1923.			Percentage of Area of Land District in Permanent and Provisional State Forest and Forest Reserves.
	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Forest Reserves.	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Forest Reserves.	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Forest Reserves.	
N. Auckland..	98,981	16,090*	3,193	3,504	21,202	3,193†	102,485	37,292	..	3.1
Auckland ..	145,845	587,813	2,316	5,383	34,544	..	151,228	622,357	2,316	8.5
Hawke's Bay	199,653	53,735	16,921	..	..	..	199,653	53,735	16,921	4.9
Taranaki ..	69,500	42,639	40,811	..	..	61	69,500	42,639	40,872	6.3
Wellington ..	516,790	27,638	9,091	65,860†	117,070	502	450,930‡	144,708‡	9,593	8.6
Nelson ..	19,955	1,984,543	8,470	..	1,826	..	19,955	1,986,369	8,470	42.7
Marlborough	81,743	119,631	6,194	1,381†	96†	..	80,362	119,535	6,194	7.4
Westland ..	2,178	1,721,471*	119	9	499	..	2,187	1,721,970	119	44.6
Canterbury ..	290,202*	..	..	..	..	..	290,202	..	..	3.0
Otago ..	128,280	317,132	543	..	1,288†	..	128,280	315,844	543	4.9
Southland ..	136,306	522,473	..	428	52,544	..	136,734	575,017	..	9.0
Totals ..	1,689,433	5,393,165	87,658	57,917†	226,301	2,630†	1,631,516	5,619,466	85,028	..

\* Error in last year's figures. † Net decrease. ‡ Withdrawal for National Park: State forest, 66,060 acres; provisional state forest, 1,350 acres.

Permanent and provisional State forests and forest reserves under Service control comprise 11.06 per cent. of the total area of the Dominion. Total area of State forest and provisional State forest and forest reserves at 31st March, 1923, 7,336,010 acres.

ANNEXURE II.—REPORT UPON STATE FORESTATION OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH ISLAND.

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EXTENSION OF PLANTATIONS.

The extension work done during the year is the most successful for many years past, and, although not a record as regards the new area planted, it is not far short of last year's figures. Weather conditions were entirely favourable, with the result that the death-rate does not exceed 8 per cent. An area of 2,539 acres was planted with Douglas fir, American yellow-pine, and *Pinus radiata* (*insignis*), thus bringing the total land planted in the North Island to 31,223 acres. All the planting was done by the notching system, with the result that the labour cost per acre was £1 18s., as against £3 9s. for the previous year, a saving of 45 per cent. The cost per acre, including trees, was £4 5s., a saving of £1 per acre on last year's cost. The saving would have been much greater but for the fact that a large number of the trees planted were three-year-old, and thus of higher value than those usually planted.

TREE-GROWING.

The growth of nursery stock has been much below the average this year, owing to the wet and unusually cold summer. The trees are, however, of good quality, with the exception that the eucalypts as a class are undersized. The number raised from seed during the year is 6,225,000, thus bringing the total raised to date in Rotorua Nursery to approximately 82,000,000. The output for the year totalled 4,280,000, while to date 72,816,000 have been disposed of. There has been no damage done by grass-grub during the year; the trees are all healthy and well rooted.

Owing to the great daily range of temperature commonly experienced in this district throughout the year difficulty has been experienced in growing many of the species of eucalypts which are in demand for farm and local-body planting schemes. It has been found that most of the valuable species are very sensitive to these changing conditions, and that it is impossible, except during unusually mild seasons, to grow these to a satisfactory size by the usual outdoor method of culture. It will be necessary, therefore, in order to meet the increasing demand for these species, to resort to propagating them under glass and afterwards hardening the plants out of doors. The necessary propagating-house will be erected during the year in time for the spring sowing.

SALE OF TREES AND TREE-SEEDS.

As will be seen from the statement of revenue below, the sales of trees and tree-seeds was increased about 100 per cent. over last year's figures. The orders for trees totalled 1,120, while the trees sold numbered 1,015,164. Tree-seed orders were received to the number of 865, the amount of seed sold being 695 lb. These figures give some idea of the extent to which this branch of the