

ting lands back to work faster, but not fast enough. New York and Pennsylvania are turning out more young trees for forest planting than all the Forest Service nurseries. Several States have passed tax laws lifting burdens from owners of lands who put them back to work.

Principally the Forest Service has lacked funds, and it is only recently that laws have made possible co-operation with States in producing young trees and getting them into the ground. Still the means is inadequate. Appropriations made are mere shadowy gestures when compared with other items of not undebateable public need.

More and more lands are being added to the Federal holdings, and the major character of them makes reforestation more and more important. Much of this acreage is now unproductive. It must be made to serve. It is needed not only for timber but to prevent erosion, regulate flow of streams, check floods and safe-guard power developments.

"On the present National Forests, alone," writes Charles Lathorp Pack in the February *Review of Reviews*, "there are approximately a million acres of land that can only be made productive by artificial reforestation—that is, by planting. At least one million acres more are likely to be added. How rapidly is the Government replanting this land? During the year 1926, eleven thousand five hundred and fifty-two acres were planted. In 1927, twelve thousand six hundred and fifteen acres. In other words, these acres will not be reforested, at the present rate, for about one hundred years. If the contemplated additions are made it will take nearly two hundred."

The answer is more money for more planting. The job must be started with a vengeance on the land the people own and want working for them. You have to train an artisan that he may earn; you must reforest waste lands that they may grow. Let us cease deluding ourselves. The problem is clear, the knowledge is adequate to solve it but straw still refuses to be fashioned into bricks.—*Nature Magazine*.

A FARMER'S FRIEND.

I hope Pukeko will not be on the shooting list this year. I have known the birds all my life (over 60 years) and I do not know of any mischief they do. I know, however, what good they can do, and all thinking farmers like them around in order to lighten our fight against insect pests. I have never had grain stacks touched by them and they are strutting round the stacks every day. Further, if they did take a small quantity of grain I would not mind but would merely look upon such as well earned wages. —DAVID SMITH, Stonehurst, Masterton.