

Quick Success with Native Trees

Wind-swept Sand-dunes of Paekakariki.

(By Observer).

Proof of the falsity of a widespread belief that native trees of New Zealand are very slow in growth and difficult to establish is given abundantly on a half-acre section at Paekakariki, Wellington, which Captain E. V. Sanderson began to plant only ten years ago. A dreary stretch of sand-dunes, covered with lupin, exposed to strong winds from the sea, has been changed into a delightful young

Some critics declared that the plants would be blown out of the ground. They felt that the experimenter was wasting his time, and they were rather sorry for him. Those adverse commentators who have lived to see the success of the experiment wished that they had followed Captain Sanderson's example. He had observed Nature's way in the establishment of forests, and took a similar course.

Some of the lupins were left to act as nurse plants. As the young natives grew up they shielded and sheltered one another. It was a kind of "close corporation" for mutual benefit.

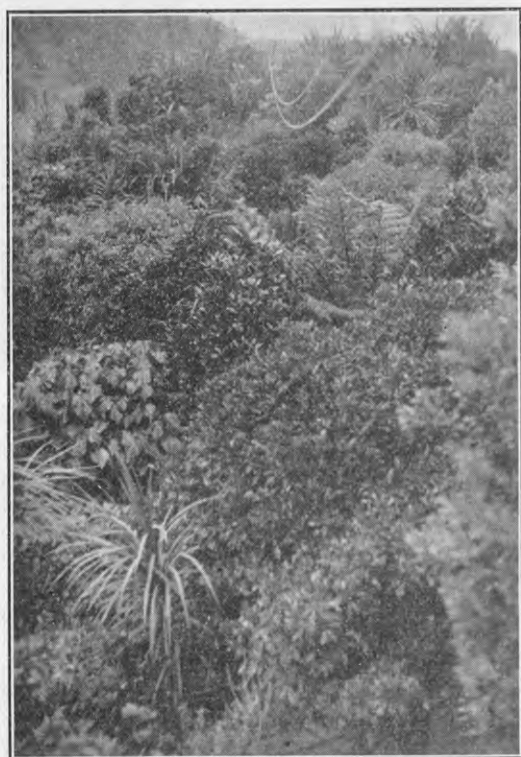
In addition to the nitrogenous nourishment supplied by the roots of lupin, the



Maori gateway to the Sanderson Bush.

forest, where one may enjoy that bush scent which warms the heart of nature-lovers.

Of course, when the tree-lover began his task, which seemed absurd to many onlookers, he heard frequent predictions of failure. The area became known as "the rubbish-heap," because of the heaps of dead lupin and other rotting vegetation, destined to form the humus necessary for the young native seedlings.



A glimpse of the top of the plantation.