

building timber be resumed from America and elsewhere in order to cope with the increased demand, and thereby conserve our own greatly diminished supply. The Forest and Bird Protection Society has received a report which goes to indicate gross mismanagement owing to the lack of such a system. High up on Mount Tongariro, this report states, a wonderful native-owned forest is being cut and milled by a Syrian. This forest, which is at an elevation of 3000 feet, should be part of the Tongariro National Park, but we have been told that no funds are available to purchase it despite the fact that finance is usually forthcoming for such schemes as the new road to Milford. Exploitation invariably dominates conservation in New Zealand.

6. The export overseas of native timber, at least from the North Island, should be prohibited. New Zealand cannot afford to send its valuable native timber to Australia. This applies emphatically to kauri, white pine and rimu.

7. A special effort should be made in order to acquire knowledge as to the conditions required to grow our native timber trees rapidly. Some small experiments by private individuals tend to demonstrate that this can be quite easily done provided the proper conditions of soil, moisture, drainage, etc., are ensured. The fact that we have never seriously attempted the regeneration of kauri forests is surely a reflection upon our enterprise. Beech, totara, rimu and kahikatea will all grow reasonably fast under proper conditions. White pine may, however, require such good soil that the cost may be prohibitive owing to the heavy accumulation of compound interest incurred by the initial cost of the land.

8. All lands upon which the bush has been felled and which have been found to be economically unfitted for pastoral purposes should be abandoned and where we cannot afford to replant, should be left to nature and guarded against fire and plant-eating animals. The initial growth would be fern, manuka, etc. This is, however, quite a good check against excessive water run off.

9. That all protection should be removed from the opossum, that it should be declared a pest, and that free trapping should be allowed to rid the forests of it. Trappers should not be permitted to damage the forest as they do at present. Every opossum in the bush means so

much less food for the native birds, so much less protection for them.

10. That timber milling should never be allowed in a water supply reserve such as the Akatarewa or the Waitakere. No official forester is needed. Not another tree should be felled. There Nature is the best forester. All that is necessary is to protect the forest from fire and animals and it will continue to reproduce itself as it has done for centuries until man came to ruin it.

To summarise, Forests are the first essential in the economy of a nation. They protect the top soil (which produces nearly all our wealth and food supplies) from being washed away into the sea and hold back the stony debris and such like material which would follow the loss of the top soil and cover over much of our lower land with its useless material. Forests further, have a marked effect climatically; without them hard, harsh desert-like conditions arise. No individual should be permitted to acquire wealth by destroying forests on watersheds, high country or steep country because the resulting losses to the community far outweigh individual gain. Some arguments used in order to destroy the forest are puerile, such as the need for grass for more stock. Trees are in all probability a much more productive and permanent crop than grass, as Japan has discovered. She has 67 per cent. of her total area in forest and 15½ per cent. in agriculture. Yet she carries an incomparably larger population than ours on much the same area. All the facts and all the statements made are, however, without any avail unless the public realise them as correct. Nothing can be done without public sympathy, therefore, the first essential is to secure this backing, and it can be done by telling the public the facts in their own language in as simple a form as possible. The Forest and Bird Protection Society has gone as far as its funds would permit in this direction, with, we are pleased to think, marked success, but the funds available are wholly inadequate to do the work quickly.

FOREST and BIRD SOCIETY BADGES

Metal badges nicely designed in gilt and nephrite green enamel are now being issued by the Society, at the price of 1/6, or in silver and paua shell at 7/6 each. These make handsome brooches.

