

## RED AND WHITE PINE

### THE CALL FOR BUTTER BOXES.

IT has become apparent even to the farmers who seldom have given a thought to forest-conservation that New Zealand cannot afford to send rimu and kahikatea out of the country any longer. A Hawke's Bay farming association recently passed a resolution requesting the Government to prohibit the further exportation of those timbers. We need every bit of those timbers ourselves, so far as the North Island is concerned. The farmers and the dairy industry are becoming concerned about material for making butter boxes. Very large quantities of these two valuable timbers have been sent to Australia for that very purpose. Now, however, the Government has very wisely stopped the excessive export of white pine.

Rimu, it must be stated emphatically, is too good a timber to devote to butter-boxes in lieu of the vanishing kahikatea. It should be reserved for house-building and furniture. Reference is made elsewhere to the need for regenerating kahikatea. The same remark applies to rimu. At this moment those trees are disappearing like smoke, before the desperate onslaught of timber-millers who have practically a free hand in our forests.

The country is being scoured for every available standing stick. We have recently seen rimu hauled out of gorges and gullies and felled on hillsides in steep country that will fall to ruin if the destruction continues, yet the cut-away and haul-away gaily continues without a thought for the future.

A timber-man on the Akatarewa-Waikanae mountain road, a bushman of great experience and skill, was asked by a Wellington man making an unofficial inspection of the ravaged bush: "What is going to be done with this high country when you strip the big trees off it?"

"Oh," he replied, "the usual thing, I suppose. Burn off the small stuff and grass the land for sheep. Anyhow, all we want is the big fellows."

And this was rugged country from a thousand to fifteen hundred feet above sea level, where the "small stuff"—the forest of the future, if cared for scientifically—is the soil-

covering that holds the precipitous ranges and gully walls together. Young rimu and kahikatea trees are there in their thousands, with many other species of coming-on timber. But what is this to the timber miller, or the sheepfarmer?

### ALAS, TOO TRUE!

THAT the desire to "get rich quick" was to some extent dominating forestry planting in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa was a statement made by Sir Arthur W. Hill, director of Kew Gardens, London, at the annual dinner of the Royal English Forestry Society. He said: "A more deplorable destruction of beauty and scenery than in such countries as New Zealand and Australia I have never seen. The neglect of native trees in the desire to raise quick growing pines is changing the face of these countries, and great risk is being run that native trees and vegetation will gradually disappear."

Dr. Cockayne, who was well called the Empire's greatest botanist, was of like mind to Sir Arthur Hill in regretting the disappearance of our forests. Unhappily, such men have never been in a position to decide forest policy. What a difference it would have made to the country, in wealth and area of indigenous timberlands, had a Hill or Cockayne been head of our State forest service twenty or thirty years ago!

### BIRD MONTH.

August is the month when large numbers of birds die of starvation, because then the cold is usually severe and food scarce. Most birds, however, choose their winter quarters about May, and it therefore behoves the large number of people who now feed birds to attend to their feathered friends regularly. Spasmodic feeding is apt to do more harm than good, because those birds which have chosen to be the guests of your hospitality have to go hungry if neglected. Therefore give your scraps, your suet, your well sweetened porridge and milk, and such like, regularly.