

timber has been removed, but where there is a large number of self-sown Kauri plants, and also a large number of younger Kauri trees unfit for milling. I hope that it may be found possible to bring under the control of the Forest Department a number of such areas where an attempt may be made to reproduce the Kauri forests, partly by encouraging the growth of the trees already there and protecting them from fire, and partly by consistent planting of Kauri seedlings. Let us at least make the attempt, not only to conserve as Kauri forests the lands now remaining covered with such forests, but also to restore to the original condition of Kauri forest the areas of poor land which were originally covered with Kauri. Whether that effort be made for the benefit of the next generation, as some hope, or for generations 150 years hence, as more believe, it should surely be made.

White Pine Export.

One last word as to the gradual disappearance of the White Pine, and the continued permission to export a percentage of that timber. You are all aware that the White Pine grows principally upon good land, and therefore upon land required for settlement, if it is Crown land, or upon land which the owner desires to clear, if it is private land. Already I have had statements from settlers that if they are unable to have the White Pine timber milled, they must fell and burn it. It happens that the White Pine can be used in Australia for purposes for which it has gone out of use here, because for some reason the borer does not attack it in Australia. There is, therefore, a market in Australia for White Pine for building purposes, and further, parts of the logs, which are regarded as refuse in New Zealand are used in Australia for various purposes. We cannot postpone the destruction of the White Pine, because the land under it is valuable, and to entirely prohibit the export would only have the effect of ensuring its destruction by fire. The timber is so valuable for butter boxes that it has always seemed most desirable to preserve it for use for that purpose as long as possible. But to effect that object it would be necessary to prohibit its rapid destruction, and that is impossible as against the urgent demand for the good land upon which it generally grows. There are areas, however, where the Kahikatea is largely dispersed among Rimu, and I trust that by withholding those areas from sale, and transferring them to the State Forests we may be able to continue the supply of White Pine for butter boxes to New Zealand producers for some considerable time longer.

I think it necessary to allude to the fact that with regard to National Endowment lands the Law officers have advised that they cannot be proclaimed as Provisional State Forests because of the preceding statutory appropriation of their revenues. I think that this difficulty can be met by appropriate legislation without unduly affecting the existing appropriation. The forest upon National Endowment

lands should certainly be conserved as least as much as the forest upon lands which have not been by existing legislation reserved for the benefit of the future inhabitants.

Finally, gentlemen, I want your help and advice. Everyone of you has far more experience than myself of the conditions and the difficulties. It is too much to hope or expect that there shall be no differences of opinion as we proceed to draw the demarcation lines between the lands to be transferred to State Forests, and the lands you will control for disposition to the public. But with the co-operation of the Minister of Lands, and your help, I shall trust that the benefit of the doubt may be given in every case to an addition to the lands under the control of the Commissioner of State Forests, where there shall continue to grow and be milled the timber required for the use of the people of New Zealand.

Building Notes.

AUCKLAND.

The matter of boarding accommodation at the Auckland Boys' Grammar School was further considered at the meeting of the Board of Governors lately, when a sketch plan of a suggested boarding establishment was submitted by the board architect, Mr Farrell. The schoolhouse plan allowed for a refectory to accommodate 120 boys with staff quarters and kitchen attached. The boardinghouse itself would accommodate about 54 boys and include three dormitories, a common room, covered playground, sick room, etc. The plans and report were referred to a committee for consideration in the meantime.

A site in Anzac avenue for the proposed Soldiers' Club to be erected by the Women's Patriotic League, was granted recently by the City Council. The Works' Committee recommended that lot 14 in the new thoroughfare be granted for the purpose, and that the completion of the terms be left to the Mayor and city solicitor. This course was approved.

The Auckland Education Board's architect, Mr John Farrell, called for tenders for additions (in wood) to the Te Aroha West School Building. Also for additions (in brick) to the Belmont School Building; and for the erection of an engineering and plumbing room (in wood) at the Technical School, Whangarei.

Mr Phil. P. Garrett called for tenders for the erection of a residence in wood at Mount Albert. Messrs Holman and Moses called for tenders for additions to residence in Mac-Murray road, Remuera. Mr Rupert Morton called for tenders for a two-storey residence in brick Remuera. Mr Daniel Patterson invited tenders for the alteration of one and erection of another house in wood at Remuera.

CAMBRIDGE.

The Auckland Education Board invited tenders for the erection of a school building at Te Miro.

CHRISTCHURCH.

With reference to the proposed erection of a new postal building in Hereford street, Mr G. Witty, M.P., has received the following telegram from the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, Acting Postmaster-General:—"I have the honour to advise you that the plans which were drawn up some five years ago have been actively under revision for some time past in order that they shall meet present requirements. A final decision has been arrived at, and as soon as the new plans are completed the further necessary action will be taken."