

in connection with our higher standards, and technical schools, with the object of teaching the rising generation something of its principles, so as to counteract the idea that appears to hold good amongst a considerable percentage of our manual workers: when a demand is made for the highest possible wages for the least return of work performed or time worked, or in other words, a "go-slow" movement or policy.

Forestry Legislation.

A Westland Protest.

At the Westland County Council's monthly meeting, the position regarding the enforcement of forestry legislation in Westland was strongly traversed by the chairman's report, which pointed out the impending injury to the district by limiting the progress of settlement and loss of revenue to local bodies, as well as crippling industrial development.

Members discussed the matter at considerable length. The strongest exception was taken to the proposed action, which, it was pointed out, was contrary to the promise of the Prime Minister (Mr. Massey) to West Coast local bodies in 1913, when the whole position was under review.

The Council resolved to invite Sir Francis Bell to visit the district and discuss the matter with local bodies and the people interested, failing which it was resolved as follows:—"That this Council enters a strong protest against the Commissioner of Forests using powers that were obtained in a surreptitious manner in the dying hours of last session of Parliament to deprive the inhabitants of the county of Westland and also this Council of one of the chief sources of county revenue by locking up vast areas of matured forests for no definite purpose, and by so doing absolutely removing such forests from the best use to which they could be put, namely, conversion into timber for industrial purposes, and the opening up of lands suitable for settlement. The Council also strongly protests against further areas being proclaimed as provisional forests until a definite policy for dealing with such forests has been evolved and announced, and until some scientific system of demarcation has been submitted to and approved by the people and local bodies interested. That a petition be presented to Cabinet in the first instance (and later to both Houses of Parliament, if necessary), praying for the repeal of the confiscatory portions of section 34 of the War Legislation and Statute Law Amendment Act, 1918, relating to State forests, pointing out the serious wrong and injury done to industry and industrial developments as well as the dislocation of local bodies' finance which will result under the terms of the section referred to. The Council reiterates that the section was put through Parliament with indecent haste and without adequate explanation as to the force and effect of the sweep-amendment therein contained, as shown more particularly in a memo. on the policy of the Government issued by Sir Francis Bell to Commissioners

of Crown Lands in April last. That steps be taken to obtain a careful estimate of the life of the existing native timber in Westland at the present rate of milling operations. That the Council heartily affirms the principle of reforestation, and that it be a suggestion to the Government that either the Forestry Department or local bodies be authorised to proceed with the work at once upon cleared areas of certain lands considered suitable, thereby affording employment for a number of returning soldiers at present unable to undertake other sustained heavy work, and that it be pointed out that if reforestation with fast growing imported trees be undertaken, the same will be at maturity long before the native timbers of Westland are exhausted at the present rate of progress of sawmilling. That, to afford access to the vast areas of millable timber in South Westland which would be otherwise destroyed to make room for settlement, the Council urges the Government to extend the railway south of Ross, as already authorised, as rapidly as possible. That steps be taken to improve Okarito harbour for shipping, and to provide landing and loading wharves for export at Bruce Bay and Jackson's Bay, as well as consider ways and means of providing facilities for exporting timber from Okura and other parts of South Westland. That, to ensure the necessary supply of milled timber being available for the Dominion for decades to come the Government be urged to establish State sawmills in South Westland and install the requisite plant for developing the hydraulic electrical power at the most convenient of the many suitable sources in the far-stretching district of Westland."

It was further resolved to hold a conference of local bodies from Karamea to South Westland at Hokitika on Tuesday, July 1st, to prepare evidence to submit to Parliament in support of repeal legislation.

Workers' Dwellings.

Erection of 200 Authorised.

(From the "Dominion").

Mr. F. W. Rowley (Superintendent of Workers' Dwellings) recently announced that authority had just been received for the erection of a first instalment of 200 workers' dwellings, and also for the receipt of application from workers earning salaries up to £225 per annum. Formerly, no application from persons earning more than £175 per annum could be entertained, so that the fixing of the new limit at £225 represents an important widening of the Department's activities.

"The Department," said Mr. Rowley, "is instructing its agents throughout the Dominion at once to allow a fortnight for the submission of further applications for these dwellings. It has not 200 applications in hand at present, possibly because the former conditions of eligibility excluded the majority of the workers in this country, or because the people knew that the Department was unable to proceed with the construction of many homes on