

question must be adjusted so that the local authorities should not be, in their present finances, hampered by the change from Crown lands to State forest lands. I was unable to pledge my colleagues as to the extent of the adjustment, as the Minister of Finance was absent from New Zealand, and the matter had, therefore, not been fully considered by Cabinet, but I tried to make it plain that the object of the new forestry departure is not to obtain revenue, but to maintain forests.

"But the revenue question was only a minor part of the reasons offered against the policy. That policy had been declared by me in a statement to the Commissioners of Crown Lands to be that the forests of New Zealand should henceforth be used to provide timber for the people of New Zealand and not for the purposes of people beyond New Zealand, and therefore that export must be gradually reduced, and finally become a vanishing quantity. And, further, that, while all timber ripe for cutting might be cut now, it was insisted that where the land was not suited for settlement the growing trees unfit now for cutting should be preserved for the future, and the felled trees replaced by planting in the original forests. Land fit for settlement must be cleared of timber, whether ripe or unripe, but land not required now for settlement upon which forest grows is to be maintained as forest, both in the present and in the future, and that forest is to be the indigenous forest of New Zealand. Planting is to be carried on to a greater extent in the future than in the past, but planting is to be upon open land, and is to be an addition to, and not a substitution for, the indigenous forest, planting being principally of exotic trees. The West Coast timber consists principally of rimu and white-pine, and the demand for both timbers in Australia has increased very greatly and very rapidly in recent years. As an example, the export of rimu timber to Australia was eight million feet in 1914, and it increased to 40 million feet in 1918, and the export of white-pine has increased at such a rate as practically to leave the prospect of white pine for future use a blank within a very few years.

"The argument for the West Coast was: First, that the trade in timber was the trade which the whole West Coast now looked forward to as its principal industry; secondly, that large mills had been erected, and valuable machinery procured for the export trade; and thirdly, that the conference was satisfied that it was useless to endeavour to keep growing rimu, unfit for cutting, for future purposes, and the best and wisest course would be to cut the rimu and kahikatea as fast as possible, and sell it as fast as possible. And, inasmuch as the local demand could be easily supplied by a very small part of the intended production, that free export without limit should be allowed. It was contended by at least one speaker that the whole of the rimu ought to be destroyed, and in its place *pinus insignis* replanted. Certain objections were made to the diminution of the jurisdiction of the wardens, and also to the intention of the State For-

estry Department to require in the new licenses for every area reserved for specific mills that, where the land was not fit for settlement, only such tree should be cut as the forestry officers marked, and that, where land was fit for settlement, the timber milled should not be exported. It was contended that the imposition of the new conditions in the licenses for reserved areas was a breach of the understanding upon which the mills were located upon their actual licensed areas, and amounted to a breach of faith with the millers. The principal question, however, and the main subject of difference between myself, as Commissioner for State Forests, and the conference, was that I felt compelled to adhere to the policy of preserving the forests for the people of New Zealand, and the conference demanded the right to cut without limit, and to export without limit. And, inasmuch as I felt it my duty to make it clear that the present Government would not depart from the declared policy of constituting provisional State forests and gradually reducing export, so that New Zealand timber should be exclusively for New Zealand inhabitants in the immediate future, the conference ended by a declaration by Mr. Seddon, the member for the district, that he would use all his influence to prevent the policy being carried out, and the formation of a kind of general union to prevent the continuance, even for the present, of the Government policy."

"To myself personally," Sir Francis Bell added, "the conference showed every courtesy and consideration, but with one or two exceptions, I think all present were much disappointed with the result of the interview."

### Sawdust Bricks.

Sawdust bricks for fuel are just now receiving close attention at the Forest Products Laboratories of the United States. The shortage of coal problem has caused a revival of interest in the possibilities of successfully briquetting sawdust and shavings so they will compete commercially with other fuels, and thus aid in the relief work which may become necessary.

In the past such processes have been successful so far as heating qualities were concerned, but have been rather too expensive, so that there is no established industry of the sort in the United States at the present time.

The usual method of compressing sawdust into briquettes is by the aid of pitch or tar as a binder in suitable machines. At one time machines were used in which, instead of a pitch binder, string was wrapped around the briquette, and held the sawdust in shape until it was used for fuel.

THE AIRPLANE CHICKEN.—AVIATOR—"Here, take this chicken away—"

WAITER—"What's the matter with it, sir?"

AVIATOR—"It's all wings and machinery."—*London Opinion.*