

to all intents and purposes inaccessible. The waste of timber in existing conditions has long been recognised."

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Captain Ellis declared that if the Forestry Department was to carry out its work efficiently and economically, if its national forest policy was to be in all respects successful, the State must be pledged that:—

1. All the forest resources of the country will be managed by the forest service.

2. All the non-agricultural lands of the country carrying forest values, or that are more suitable for tree growth than for agriculture, will be grouped into national forests dedicated in perpetuity to the people of New Zealand.

3. A comprehensive inventory of the forest resources of the Dominion will be begun as soon as forest technicians are available.

4. A policy of enterprise will be adopted as to forest education.

5. There will be a businesslike management adopted, one in which a full and harmonious co-operation is secured between the State Forest Service, public bodies and private corporations and individuals.

6. There will be an expansion of the principle of co-operative profit-sharing and assistance in tree-planting by individuals, private and public bodies.

7. There will be worked out a system of equitable forest taxation, such as is now in vogue in Great Britain, France, and in several States of the U.S.A., by which it will be possible for the individual to practice forestry, and thus ensure to himself a supply of timber, and a profit to the community.

8. A Forest Act will be enacted at an early date—an Act which will be broad enough and liberal enough to permit of deliberate action over a period of years.

9. A forest products laboratory will be established to investigate all wood problems; and the economical utilisation of the timber resources of the country.

Lastly, Captain Ellis emphasised that it was essential that the Forestry Department should be given a free hand in its own sphere.

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We think the Forestry Department and Government are to be congratulated on the appointment of Captain Ellis to the important position he now holds as Director of Forestry, and that the sawmilling industry throughout the country will receive from him every sympathetic consideration. In addition to his scientific qualifications, we believe Captain Ellis is thoroughly alive to the commercial side of the problems he will be required to solve in the interests of the country as a whole.

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One of the objects of the Australian Forest League is the advancement of educational and legislative measures, and the encouragement of individual effort tending to ensure the maintenance, extension and renewal of the forests of Australia.

## Our Forest Assets—Report by Sir David Hutchins.

### The Case for Conservation.

#### Timber, Settlement and Revenue.

Two broad conclusions are presented in the report by Sir David Hutchins on "New Zealand Forestry" which has just been issued by the Government. One is that the native forests of this country are still capable of becoming one of its richest national assets—an asset which for all time will yield a big annual return of wealth, lighten the burdens of taxation, lower the cost of living, and support close settlement on extensive areas that otherwise will be barren and will carry a sparse population or none at all. The other main conclusion is that unless immediate measures are taken to conserve the remaining native forests and work them as forests are worked, with enormous annual profit, in Europe and in many other parts of the world, the opportunity of preserving them as a wealth-producing national estate will speedily disappear. These conclusions, stated in the report with all possible emphasis, are based upon the first comprehensive survey of the indigenous forests of the Dominion ever made by an expert forester. Indiscriminate forest destruction has gone so far, Sir David Hutchins declares, that only a short further persistence in the present policy will render the restoration of the forests almost impossible at any reasonable cost. "That will mean," he adds, "the final loss of the finest forests in the Southern Hemisphere, and with them the loss of an export trade worth, in the future, more than either wool or dairy produce. It will mean the loss of the best industry New Zealand has ever possessed or is ever likely to possess, and the handicapping of two or three other industries in depriving them of their raw material at economical rates. It will mean a continued rise in the present high cost of living. . . ." On the other hand, the distinguished author of "New Zealand Forestry" has much that is encouraging to say about the possibility of restoring the native forests to rich productivity. These forests, he points out, have been persistently undervalued. His own opinion is that on the whole they may be classed as above the average of forests elsewhere. The kauri, he adds, is "unique in the world" as a timber producing tree. The largest kauri of which the dimensions are on record contained twice as much timber as the largest of the Californian big trees. Again, the average millable forest of New Zealand carries about double the timber "stand" of the Appalachians Forest, which is being redeemed for the American nation at a cost of millions, and was described by the late ex-President Roosevelt as "the heaviest and most beautiful hardwood forest of the Continent." One of the most interesting and valuable sections of the report is based upon an exhaustive investigation of the rate of growth of New Zealand as compared with European trees. The broad conclusion reached