

The investigation and study of the relative pulping value of our Native woods is strongly urged, to avoid the great waste that might be profitably utilised in the manufacture of wood pulp, paper, and ply wood, as every effort should be made to establish the pulp and paper industry in New Zealand. Wood distillation should also be studied in view of the probable shortage of petrol. In view of the guesses that have been made from time to time, no reliable data being available, regarding our forest resources, provision must be made for a definite stock taking and the following information collected.

Statistics of past, present and future timber requirements.

Extent of standing forest on Crown, Native, and private lands.

General rate of growth of all species.

Means of natural and artificial regeneration.

Forest fire protection standards for each region.

Classification of forest soils and suitability for forestation or agriculture.

Captain Ellis strongly urges closer co-operation between the Government, the sawmilling industry, and the public, in place of the hostility, antagonism, and distrust that has so frequently been exhibited between the sawmiller and the public. Regarding the responsibility of the latter towards the labour employed at bush and mill, he writes, "the present system of migratory milling does not give the forest workers stability of employment and a 'chance at home.' Housing and sanitation are often outrageous, and living conditions intolerable. Under these conditions the timber-worker easily becomes voteless, landless, womanless, homeless restless, discontented and radical. To a large extent this problem may be solved by the Development of the Central Milling idea, which will permit of a more adequate and efficient operation, ensure suitable and liveable working conditions, reasonable educational facilities, and stabilisation of definite communal centre."

Semi-public and private planting by public institutions, endowed with forest lands, by County Councils, Municipalities, Industrial Corporations, and private individuals urged on the ground that it should be to these agencies the community should look for the supply of purely local needs. The establishment of a State Forest Loan Fund, to make advances and encourage private planting, or the improvement of private forest lands under supervision is considered advisable, and should be worked out on the same principles as advances to encourage the fishing industry.

To finance the Forest organisation and development schemes proposed, a long term Government Debenture loan is suggested, amounting to £872,300, the expenditure of which would be spread over a period of 5 to 7 years, and would cover the following:—

Housing, Improvements of roads, etc., Demarcation, Working plans and General	£240,000.
Existing State Forest extension	£302,300.
Forest products Laboratory	£30,000.
Acquisition of Forest lands	£200,000.
State Forest Loans	£100,000.
	<hr/> £872,300.

In addition to this, "Special Projects" are estimated to run into £47,000, and current management £53,000 per annum for the five years development period. In framing the new Forest Act, it is recommended that all previous legislation and regulations should be repealed (at least so far as they conflict with a well ordered administration) that the maximum amount of matured and large growth timber which may be cut during years and the periods on each State Forest, should be prescribed. That no sale of timber should be made until the approving officer is satisfied that practicable methods of cutting are defined for the preservation of the living and growing timber, and the promotion of the younger growth so as to secure as complete utilisation of the various species and grades of material as is compatible with existing market conditions.

## Dominion Timber Rights.

### National Action Urged.

Several matters affecting timber supplies for the Dominion were placed before the Commissioner of State Forests (Sir Francis Bell) by a deputation from the Timber Workers' Federation recently.

That groups of workers should be enabled to undertake co-operative work in the milling of timber and the erection of houses was urged by Mr. Hiram Hunter. It was suggested that if associations of workers came together they would render a benefit to the community, and should be given financial assistance.

Mr. E. Phelan said the country had timber supplies for only 10 or 15 years ahead. He knew that the Government was proposing to take on some practical scheme, but in the meantime something should be done to conserve the existing forests. There was too much private enterprise and contracting. The time had come when the Government should take over the control of the milling industry. He was glad the Government had set up a special department, and he hoped it would be independent both of the millers and the workers. It would pay the country to appoint inspectors to see that the timber cut was used to the best advantage. In this way millions of feet would be saved to the country from the slab heap and the sawdust heap. The federation was