

taken under the conditions existing when the Dominion was flooded with low-grade Oregon.

"The displacement of native timbers on the Dominion markets by the imported article also means that royalties, or forest revenues, will be greatly diminished during a time when it would seem that Forestry revenue should be considerably increased.

"It would in our opinion be fully in the interests of the community, if part of any duty imposed on imported timber should be earmarked for the extension of the Forestry Service, and so assist in the better utilisation and conservation of our native forests. This would indeed seem to be necessary in order to adjust the harm that would be done to Forestry by any such importations."

### Forest Control.

#### CONSERVATORS MEET IN WELLINGTON.

The recently-appointed Forest Conservators had an interview with the Minister-in-charge of the Forestry Department (Sir Francis Bell) recently. These officers, who will be stationed in various parts of the Dominion, will have important duties in connection with the scheme of forest control, and the lines upon which they are being laid down.

The State Forest Service is still at the initial stage of its work, but it has accomplished a great deal during the last twelve months. It has secured control of a large part of the remaining forest lands of the Dominion, and is proceeding now to gather exact information regarding the reserved areas. The old happy-go-lucky system of sawmilling is to disappear. Areas will not be assigned to the sawmillers in the future until the Forest Service has first ascertained what amount of timber is involved, and then laid down the conditions that are to be observed in the milling.

The Chief Inspector of the State Forest Service (Mr. A. Hansson) has just returned from the West Coast, where two parties are making a timber survey. They are to make special maps of the forest areas and also estimates of the amount of timber available for cutting, thus enabling the service to know exactly what the cutting rights are worth when they are put on the market. Practice has shown that such estimates are within 10 per cent. of correctness, and they are, therefore, of great value to millers competing for the right to mill the timber. Instead of selling or buying, as the case may be, in the dark, as has been held to have been done largely in the past, both the Government and the miller will know as nearly as possible what they are bargaining about. The parties on the West Coast have also carried out certain botanical investigations.

One of the tasks of the service is to secure the utilisation of timbers that have been regarded as worthless, or of very little value, in the past. Much information bearing on this matter has

already been gathered, and the Forestry officers believe that they will be able to secure in the future the economical use of a substantially increased proportion of the timber in the forest areas handed over to the sawmillers. Some of the trees that have been neglected in the past are capable of yielding timber of useful quality, which it is believed the local markets can be induced to absorb.  
—*Dominion.*

### Scientific Forestry.

That forestry has been reduced to a more or less exact science was shown by Mr. C. L. Foweraker in a lecture at Canterbury College recently. Mr. Foweraker explained the necessity for a knowledge of forestry by stating that whereas a farmer could discover in less than a season whether his crop was going to be a bad one or not, it took a forester perhaps ten years to ascertain the same thing. "All that time," said Mr. Foweraker, "his land would be idle, and he would be losing money. In an up-to-date School of Forestry, however, experts would be available to tell the forester how he could plant his crop, and tend it to obviate such losses." Forestry—how to produce the largest quantity of the best quality timber on a given area, and how to use it to the best advantage—is the subject of a course of ten lectures by Mr. C. L. Foweraker, M.A., F.L.S., Assistant at the Biological Laboratory, Canterbury College. In his lecture, Mr. Foweraker gave the above definition of his subject. The lecture was of an introductory and general nature, the lecturer dividing the subject into the following classifications: Forest Botany, the study of the individual tree; Silviculture, a study of the trees in masses; Forest Management and Protection; Forest Geology and Chemistry dealing with the soil, the altitude of the forest, etc.; Meteorology, dealing with the climate and rainfall; and the animals and insects inhabiting the forest. With regard to the grown forest, the lecturer stated that the subject would be dealt with under the headings of forest engineering, dealing with surveying constructional works, milling machinery, etc.; forest policy, which embraced forest economics; forest law, and forest utilisation, which treated with the logging and milling of the timber, its by-products and its care. Science is now being applied to all industrial life, and it is not surprising to find the field of forestry invaded. Nature has always much to reveal to the patient enquirer, and in the laboratory many discoveries are made, for science moves in a mysterious way her wonders to reveal. Mr. Foweraker was a late visitor to Westland, and spent a few weeks in the forests adjacent to the town, and further south. He has been pursuing research work since his return to Christchurch, and no doubt the lecture series he is giving will be founded largely on his late experiences in Nature's wonderland. It seems to be beginning at the wrong end to impart the scientific knowledge he has gleaned so far away from the forest territory,