

Sawmilling Section.

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Mr. Will Lawson's campaign as Organiser for the N.Z. Forestry League is attracting a considerable amount of attention from the Press throughout New Zealand, and he is certainly doing good work in educating the people in and bringing home to them a realisation of the importance of this subject. In Canterbury, where Mr. Lawson made a start, there has already been formed a strong branch of the League, and, with the help of Mr. J. Deans, who is an enthusiast on this subject, he has been interviewing the County Councils and other public bodies and has awakened in them a keen interest in Forestry and Afforestation. In Marlborough also he has done good work, and the movement is afoot there to form a branch of the League.

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The *Southland Daily News* of May 30th devoted a column and a-half to a description of the opening ceremony of the Waitane Sawmill by the Minister of Labour, and to a description of the mill itself. The mill is situated about 15 miles from Gore, and has been started by a local company under the name of the Halliday Co., Ltd. We wish them every success.

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We are certainly in accord with the following resolution, which was recently moved by Mr. Whiteman at a meeting of the Farmers' Union in Masterton:—"That this Executive urges on the Government, through the Provincial Executive, the imperative need for a vigorous prosecution of the Forestry programme as outlined by the Minister; and, further, that in considering the areas for afforestation the hills on the eastern side of the Hutt Valley should be given favourable consideration." This is certainly a case in point where a large area of land at present utterly unproductive could be utilised to great advantage for afforestation purposes, and this area has the prime essential for this purpose of location near a large and growing centre of population. The whole area comprised in the range of hills from Day's Bay to Mangaroa, and again the hills around Kaitoke could be resumed by the Government at a very low figure, and the planting and all necessary work would provide healthy and suitable occupation for surplus labour from Wellington and surrounding districts during periods of unemployment. The scheme of providing occupation for unemployed now being carried out by the Government under the Forestry Department in the Himitangi district by planting of sand-dune areas might well be applied to the area in question along the Hutt Valley. The advantages of afforestation in areas such as the one

in question as against situations further inland, such as Rotorua and Hanmer, are so patent as to hardly require explanation, but the main features are accessibility to markets, greater ease of securing labour, short transit from forest to market which would make it possible to secure revenue from firewood, props, etc., from the thinnings long before the main timber crop would be ready for milling, and the fact that low transport cost would allow maximum royalties to be paid as well as allowing a margin for heavier logging costs on account of the rough nature of the hills. We were pleased to note from a paragraph in the *Dominion* of May 25th that Mr. Will Lawson, official Organiser for the Forestry League, is strongly advocating the planting of "the bare hills around Wellington."

Wood Pulp from New Zealand Timbers.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS.

Tests to decide the suitability of New Zealand timbers as paper making materials have been carried out recently by the Imperial Institute, London, and the report has now been received by the State Forest Service. Samples of paper made from the pulp of New Zealand timbers accompanied the report. These are mainly of the type used in paper-bag making, for, as far as can be gathered from the report, no tests were made to see whether the pulp produced was suitable for newsprint.

Discussing the report in a communication to the Commissioner of State Forests, the Director (Captain L. MacIntosh Ellis) says that the principal requirements which paper manufacturers hold as desirable in woods for making paper pulp may be summarised as follow:—

- (1) The wood should contain a long, strong, and yet soft and tender fibre.
- (2) The wood should be relatively free from inter-cellular constituents such as resins, gums, tannins, etc.
- (3) White fibred woods are preferred, as they bleach more readily.
- (4) The wood itself should contain large quantities of available cellulose.

The eight timbers submitted to the Imperial Institute for examination were as follow:—Black birch (*Fagus Solandri*), mountain birch (*Fagus Cliffortioides*), silver or Southland birch (*Fagus Menziesii*), kamahi (*Weinmannia Racemosa*), red birch (*Fagus Fusca*), tawa (*Beilschmiedia Tawa*), *Pinus Laricio*, and *Pinus Radiata*. The chemical