

servator will be in possession of full particulars in regard to the new State forests in his region. Copies of the opinion are now being made for distribution to all officers interested."

Universal Classification.

In our January issue appeared a short paragraph advocating a universal classification or system of grading timber for the whole Dominion, and since that date several instances have occurred which further stress the necessity of such a uniform list of grades upon which the price-list for each district could be based. At the present time there is a distinct system of classification in vogue in almost each province—certainly in Southland-Otago, Canterbury, Nelson, West Coast, Wellington, Gisborne, Taranaki, Waikato, and Auckland—and probably several others besides. The same grade of timber is called by a different designation in almost every one of the foregoing districts, though the prices are adjusted to more or less the same figure for each grade throughout. It would certainly be a great advantage to all persons handling or dealing in timber in any way if a uniform system were adopted throughout. In the first place the greatest advantage would be to the sawmillers themselves, but how much easier would it be for the merchants and builders and others buying timber if there were a uniform grading system and they knew exactly the standard to which a particular grade would conform were they buying from districts outside their own and whose present classification they were not familiar with. Also it would be a distinct advantage to architects to know that in specifying a given grade the timber would conform to a certain standard wherever it might come from. It is a question that could well be taken in hand by the Sawmillers' Federation to the great advantage of the trade generally.

Some of the direct results of systematic forestry were described at the annual meeting in Wellington of the Forestry League by Mr. A. Hanson, Chief Inspector of Forests. He said that in 1830, after forestry had been practised only a short time in Germany, the forest lands of that country produced about 29 cubic feet per acre. In 1917 the production had increased to 61 cubic feet per acre, which meant that the forester had made three trees grow where formerly only one grew. "It is also a fact," he continued, "that one of the German States with an area of forests only half of that of the province of Ontario—one of the best timber provinces in Canada—with a well-organised forest service, produced seven times the net income of that derived in Ontario without touching the capital, as Ontario is doing. Another example of results achieved we find in France. During the last 60 years nearly 25 million acres of waste lands were reclaimed by planting at a

cost of £3,000,000. These areas are to-day worth £25,000,000, and furnish an annual crop worth nearly £2,000,000, or two-thirds of the initial outlay. Results like these can be found in many more instances—in fact, you have something at Rotorua which will run close to anything produced in Europe."—*Southland Times*.

The following specimens of native trees are growing on the Bonithon Estate in Taranaki. They were planted by Mr. W. B. Davies when a boy in 1861. Their growth and measurement fully demonstrate that native trees grown under favourable conditions grow at a greater rate than is generally supposed. They are:—Rimu, 20in. diameter, 52ft. high; fine tree. Titoki, 18in. diameter; good stem; fine tree. Maire (*Olea Cunninghamii*), 13in. diameter; 45ft. high; fine tree. Puriri, several large trees which have been much neglected and injured during late years.

Details of a severe experience which occurred to him when engaged in forestry operations in the far North-west of Canada were given by Mr. A. Hanson, of the New Zealand Forestry Department, in the course of a lecture recently in the Trades Hall. "Sometimes getting out of the forests in the autumn is delayed for some reason or other, and then the real hardships begin," he said. "We wanted very badly on one occasion to finish up some work to save another trip back, and in attempting this we got caught in the 'freeze up.' We had to paddle for three days over lakes covered with a thin crust of ice, which made the progress cumbersome and slow, in worn-out summer clothing and moccasins torn to pieces and wet from the snow, and with very little to eat, except snow-shoe rabbits. At the end of this lake we abandoned our outfit and walked, or rather dragged, ourselves in to the company outpost, some eight miles down the stream."—*Dominion*.

Some Economic Aspects of Forest Utilisation.

(Continued from August issue)

As an indication of this state of affairs, I would like to instance a certain bush area—quoted by sawmill experts as an ordinary 8000ft. to the acre rimu bush, the other timbers in their usual opinion being of no value. The bush, however, fell into the hands of a conservationist in the true sense of the word, and last season 600,000ft. were worked off an area of 30 acres. The timbers were rimu, tawa, rata, rewa rewa, pukatea, hinau, mangeao and miro. The tawa was all marketed at rimu prices, mostly for boxes. The P. and T. Department took the rata at 45s. per 100 delivered at Newmarket, and the coachbuilders absorbed all the surplus. A tramway company took the whole cut of the log in rewa rewa to use for brake blocks. Pukatea was sold for shipbuilding purposes, and all mangeao went