

been dealt with in the full discussion which took place between the Executive of the Federation and Sir Francis Bell and the officers of the State Forest Service; except perhaps the suggestion put forward by Mr. Bathgate that no attention appears to have been paid in the Policy Statement to the afforestation of the head waters of rivers that are not already clothed with forest. Many such rivers, we understand, are to be found in Canterbury and Otago, and there is no doubt that the afforestation of the sources of these rivers is a matter which should surely warrant attention. The Rev. J. H. Simmonds stressed the necessity of devoting expenditure and attention to the planting of areas close to markets rather than distant areas such as Rotorua, etc., and particularly suggested the wisdom of seeking such places as the Marlborough Sounds for afforestation, for there the land is in large measure unsuitable for farming and is centrally situated, sloping as it does to such excellent waterways for the rafting of logs or towing of timber, the locality certainly stands out as one most eminently suitable for afforestation purposes, particularly so as such large markets are so near at hand. We consider, however, that attention should be paid to idle lands even closer to markets than this, and would point out the poor land along that range of hills running from Eastbourne along the eastern side of the Hutt Valley right to Kaitoke. In this range of hills there is a very considerable area of poor land at present lying waste, and there is no doubt that the Government could acquire this land at a very reasonable figure even were it taken under the Public Works Act, and here, of all places, should afforestation prove a success, for there would be a very ready and close market for all forest products and a return could be looked for at an early stage from the sale of firewood, posts, poles and props that would be available from the first thinnings. Moreover, a steady supply of forest labour could always be counted upon in such a locality as this so close to a main centre.

We have received from the Director of the State Forest Services (Captain L. Macintosh Ellis) a copy of his Report on Forest Conditions in New Zealand, which was laid on the table of the House of Representatives last session and which has now been printed. It is undoubtedly a most able and instructive report, and is accompanied with maps of both islands showing the several conservation regions and coloured reference of State forests, provisional State forests, forest reserves, etc., and also has copious diagrams and tables dealing with timber output, export, royalties, licenses, prices, etc., all of which are of great value to those engaged in the timber industry and will be of considerable use for reference purposes. It is too large a matter to deal with in a short paragraph, but as most of our readers will have had copies of Mr. W. J. Butler's able Digest of the Report, which was printed some months ago, and as the Report itself was widely dealt with by the Press

at the time it was presented, they are probably already fairly conversant with its main features. We would recommend, however, all those who are interested in the timber business to obtain a copy if possible.

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In the January issue of *The Australian Forestry Journal* (which is issued monthly by the Forestry Commissioners of New South Wales) there are many excellent articles which are, of course, mostly of interest to Australians, but its principal article, entitled "The Awakening of New Zealand," deals with the establishing of our State Forest Service and quotes from the Report above referred to. The article in question closes as follows: "*The Forestry Journal* hopes to be able to treat of New Zealand plans when they shall have more advanced; meantime it is gratifying to note the alertness with which the authorities in the Dominion are proceeding to cover the hiatus that has been long allowed to exist in forestry industry in Australasia. The creation of a Forestry Department in that country has come about not a day too soon; the wonder is that the generally progressive spirit of the people of that fine country permitted it to be without such an institution so long."

It would be an excellent thing if our State Forest Service issued a *Forestry Journal* also, or perhaps the monthly *Journal of Agriculture* could be enlarged to embrace forestry and become *The Journal of Agriculture and Forestry*. As it is we notice there is an article in the February issue of the journal by Captain Ellis on "Forestry in New Zealand: The Government Policy and Private Planting," and there have constantly appeared articles more in relation to forestry than agriculture. An official monthly organ dealing with forestry and timber matters is certainly needed to stimulate public interest in this all-important subject and such important industry. We are pleased to know that the Forestry League is taking this matter up with the Government, and hope a publication will result that will be of interest and assistance to the saw-milling industry in particular, but will also keep public opinion and sentiment up to "concert pitch" in forestry matters.

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Professor Ernest H. Wilson has just concluded his visit to and investigations in New Zealand, and in next issue we hope to print some of his published views concerning the Dominion, but following is reprint from *The Weekly Times*, Melbourne, following this gentleman's visit to Australia:--

FOREST WEALTH.

"There seems to be a sort of arboricidal mania here," said Professor Ernest H. Wilson, Assistant Director of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, when discussing his impressions of Australia, and more particularly of New South Wales. There are tens of thousands of thoughtful Australians in all parts of the Commonwealth who will agree with him. In nearly all the States vast