

When the sawn timber leaves the pony pacific and edger it is conveyed by live rolls and chains to the docking bench where the operator mechanically causes goose or cut off saws to rise from below and cut clean square-ends, which is a great improvement on the old method of allowing slugs and broken ends to disfigure the stacked timber.

After being docked to required length the timber moves on to a long sloping chain-way which lowers it down to the stacking and tallying yard on the wharf. It may here be said that from the time the log falls in the bush to the time the timber reaches the tallying yard, the whole of the handling is mechanical, very little human exertion being necessary except an occasional movement of levers or adjustments.

All small slabs, strips and other waste are fed into a hogger which chews everything which comes into its maw into small chips. These chips along with all sawdust are mechanically conveyed straight into the Dutch ovens, which fire the pair of large 18ft. x 5ft. boilers generating steam at 135lb. pressure. Large slabs and dockings are chain-conveyed to a dump where the surplus will be burnt from time to time.

The engine is a large compact double cylinder of high press character, and transmits its power through the various pulleys by means of what is a new departure in this country—viz., endless leather belts of extraordinarily wide dimensions which are tensioned by the jockey pulley method.

The saw filing room is well equipped with emery gulleters, swages, anvils, etc., and a Covell's automatic saw sharpener completes the outfit.

The whole mill is well housed with corrugated iron roof, and is of the double decker American type. The situation on the hillside within a few chains of the ocean rendered its construction fairly easy by excavation.

The scheme of things has been well thought out, and the result is probably the most up-to-date plant in this Dominion. The main difficulty will not be the sawing: it will be the maintenance of a plentiful log supply of 40,000ft. per day from rough bush country, to keep such a sawmill going to its full capacity.

A day was taken to make a trip to the point about a mile past Sand Hill point. The track—some five miles long—was wet and muddy, and traversed all the way through rough granite, wind-swept, and rather sparse timber country. For these five miles at any rate, the main line must keep close to the sea, following round the spurs and gulleys, which are many—a decidedly rough and costly proposition. We wish the company every success in their enterprise and pluck in launching out in quite a new phase of the milling industry: they are pioneers just in as large a sense as the first sawmillers who started saws in New Zealand.

Universal Classification.

A further step towards the end of securing a universal classification of timber for the whole of New Zealand was taken when this matter came up for discussion at the recent meeting of the Executive of the Sawmillers' Federation. The whole question was thoroughly gone into with representatives of the State Forest Service and the Department of Industries, and a form of classification suitable to all districts was practically decided upon, and it is hoped that this will be adopted in the near future.

The Late Sir David Hutchens.

A tribute was paid to the memory of the late Sir David Hutchens on September 14th last when a representative gathering of those interested in forestry and the timber industry took place at the Karori Cemetery to witness the ceremony of planting a young kauri tree upon the grave of the late Sir David Hutchens. The ceremony was performed by Sir James Wilson, President of the New Zealand Forestry League, and in a suitable speech he outlined the valuable work performed by the deceased gentleman, and its great importance to the future of New Zealand. Sir Francis Bell also made fitting tribute.

Urewera Lands.

Recently the Taumarunui papers and the Settlers' Association of that district made strong representations to the Government to have the "reservation" over a certain large area of provisional State forest in that locality lifted, and we are pleased to note that after full investigation the Minister has decided that the "reservation" must stand. In pleasingly marked contrast to the attitude adopted in this instance by the local newspaper is the stand taken by the *Poverty Bay Herald*, *Whakatane Press*, *East Coast Guardian*, and many other papers on the question of the Urewera Lands, for articles have recently appeared in these papers along the lines of the plea appearing in our last issue for proper demarcation of the forest areas of this territory to be undertaken before the lands are opened up for settlement.

Beech Forest Asset.

The report of Dr. L. Cockayne's lecture on the beech forests of New Zealand, in a recent issue, and that of the discussion on the lecture, which appeared later, are commended to attention. Dr. Cockayne presented clearly and interestingly many facts about the general character of New Zealand's forests, and made out a clear case for a definite policy for dealing with the extensive beech forests