

in particular. Notwithstanding the plentiful supply of beech, it is as yet little known as a marketed timber, though it has many good qualities. The lecturer mentioned its excellent behaviour from the forester's point of view, and drove home its tolerance of poor soil. It is, perhaps, the fact that a beech is a poor-soil denizen that has helped to keep it in the background commercially, for New Zealand forestry in the past has been too much mere deforestation.

Dr. Cockayne is to be congratulated upon his interesting collection of evidence which *prima facie* points to extensive crossing between the recognised species of beech. He suggests that hybrid beeches probably differ in timber qualities from the pure strains, and evidently the question needs inquiry. If there are differences, and timbers can be varied and improved by hybridisation, it should not be necessary to wait upon the chances of nature. Timber trees cannot be raised as quickly as flowering plants for the garden, but that should not hinder some new Burbank from laying the foundations of a later New Forest, where future generations may mill woods yet unknown to industry.—*Evening Post*.

The following clipping from the *Sydney Morning Herald* was sent to us by Mr. Irvine, and it will be of interest to sawmillers in New Zealand as showing the state of the industry in Australia early in September:—

UNEMPLOYMENT.

SAWMILLS CLOSING DOWN.

LABOUR MEMBER'S ADVICE.

HOBART, Thursday.

A deputation of Labour members of Parliament waited on the Minister for Works, Mr. J. B. Hayes, recently with reference to the unemployment problem, which various speakers showed was most acute. It was stated that 800 timber workers had been discharged owing to big importations of timber, and that private employers all over the State were dismissing men wholesale.

Mr. Ogden, one of the Labour members, said that the worst had not been reached, and suggested that demands for higher wages should be held in abeyance when they caused unemployment. All the timber mills at Geeveston were being closed down, and yet timber workers were asking £12 weekly. Such demands might be the cause of the mills shutting down, and if such demands were frightening private industry the unions ought to make sacrifices in order to keep the industries going.

The Minister, in reply, said he had foreseen the difficulty, and was providing Government work wherever possible. Arbitration Court awards had

been made without any regard to whether the industry could pay the increased wages. One Judge had said that if an industry could not pay it must cease, but that was a silly statement. It was an industry, not the employer, which paid wages, and each industry must beat competition, and workers must make sacrifices to do that.

BATEMAN'S BAY, Thursday.

Owing to the decreased demand for timber, almost all the sawmills in the district have closed down indefinitely. All hands employed in the mills, and in the hewing and hauling of timber in the forests, have been paid off. Over 500 men are directly affected, while in addition a large number of storekeepers and others, who are dependent upon the prosperity of the sawmills for their livelihood, are faced with a serious outlook. Out of a total number of 16 mills, only three are still working, and it is expected that these will also close down soon.

PLEA FOR COMMON-SENSE.

Mr. A. D. Kay, addressing a large meeting in Martin Place, said that unemployment was largely caused by the policy of strikes, direct action, and go slow, which had been advocated for some years by those who had claimed to be leaders of the working class. The workers had been told that by doing as little as possible, and demanding reward beyond merit and reason, they would realise an industrial Utopia, and emancipate themselves from wage slavery. Government doles only aggravated the position and prolonged the agony. The only remedy was the re-casting of industry on common-sense lines.—9/9/21.

"Stockholm Tar"

FROM KAURI LIMBS.

Forest-Ranger Whitehorn, of the Auckland Conservation Region, reports that a settler named Arnusson, living near Dargaville, has been extracting material from kauri limbs, which he sells in Auckland as Stockholm tar. Messrs. John Burns and Co., to whom he sold forty gallons, had no difficulty in disposing of this. They state that it is a considerably better article than the usual "imitation" Stockholm tar of commerce; it is somewhat thinner than the European tar. Arnusson's method of extraction is interesting, being that adopted by the Swedish peasants in the treatment of their pines. The wood is split up into small pieces and stacked in a circular heap, with ends pointing inwards and downwards. This is then fired on the outside, as in charcoal-burning, the heat causing the juices to run down the centre of the pile into a receptacle placed at the bottom. This promises well for the utilisation of our kauri bush waste (states the "Forest Service Newsletter.")—*N.Z. Times*.