

to the "whys and wherefores" of the tariff proposals and schedules as introduced, but instead of this Parliament was set to work upon the task of considering the tariff and various alterations had actually been passed before even part of the Commission's report was made available to members. Even now the most important part of the report dealing with the actual recommendations as to the schedules and items of duty has not been disclosed by the Government. (And in this connection it may be pertinent to ask why? Is the Government afraid to publish the actual recommendations of a Commission specially set up to take evidence throughout the country, and who should thus be in far better position to judge the necessities of each particular case or item than is Parliament, or even Cabinet itself!). In a matter of such grave national import the people should certainly know what the specific recommendations of the Commission were in respect to every item, even though such might not happen to suit the political exigencies of a particular party which happen to be in power.

The *Herald* very aptly concludes:—"The absurdity of asking the Commission to report on matters *it was intended to settle without its aid* seems to be equalled only by the contemptuous indifference thus displayed by the Government towards Commission and Parliament alike.

The foregoing figures were taken out for the purpose of rebutting the many statements recently made by members of Parliament and the builders in different parts of the New Zealand to the effect that New Zealand timbers—and in particular kauri—could be purchased in Australia at a cheaper rate than in this country.

They will, however, be of interest to sawmillers, and on this account are published here.

It would appear that the belief leading to the statements referred to has originated from the fact that Australian timber price lists in certain lines quote at 100 feet *lineal* (or running) measure, whereas the New Zealand lists (with the exception of mouldings) quote at per 100 *superficial*.

Take as an example, 1st Class 6 x 1 on the foregoing rimu lists—this would be quoted in Australia at 19s. 6d. per 100 (lineal) against the Rangitikei price 21s. 6d. per 100 super). It is quite understandable that some of our M's.P. would be sufficiently ignorant of these matters to fall into so simple an error as to take the two prices to relate to the same quantity, but there is no excuse whatever for builders or anyone connected with the trade or having a knowledge of timber measurements to make such a glaring mistake. It had actually been stated that kauri could be bought in Melbourne and shipped back to New Zealand and, after paying the freight and charges both ways, be sold in New Zealand cheaper than the New Zealand sawmillers' lists. It would be entertaining were some builder or M.P. still holding this opinion to try the experiment.

New Zealand Timber Imports, 1901-1921.

SAWN UNDRESSED.

Year.	Quantity.	Value. £	Duty. £	Avg. declared Customs value at point of shipment per 100 sup. feet.	
				s.	d.
1901 ...	5,661,622	43,617	5,662	15	4.90
1902 ...	7,054,373	65,154	5,449	18	5.65
1903 ...	10,658,068	90,582	9,714	17	0.00
1904 ...	12,101,602	92,433	11,328	15	3.25
1905 ...	11,054,953	77,953	10,398	14	1.30
1906 ...	14,024,285	108,529	11,958	15	5.75
1907 ...	16,162,628	136,702	12,457	16	11.00
1908 ...	37,150,798	255,436	31,521	13	9.10
1909 ...	24,583,956	168,282	23,252	13	8.25
1910 ...	17,492,515	141,637	15,094	16	2.35
1911 ...	29,598,466	216,953	26,577	14	5.70
1912 ...	17,028,558	149,804	15,103	17	7.20
1913 ...	32,484,552	302,979	27,600	18	7.80
1914 ...	29,998,965	255,684	25,419	17	0.55
1915 ...	18,526,506	170,308	15,675	18	4.70
1916 ...	15,049,715	107,687	14,678	14	4.50
1917 ...	9,408,836	90,548	7,637	19	3.10
1918 ...	7,219,847	92,069	6,218	25	6.00
1919 ...	6,648,869	104,721	5,920	31	6.00
1920 ...	19,671,108	433,413	—	44	1.00
1921 (9 mths)	22,113,574	345,706	—	31	3.25

Hewn for 9 months to end of September—
1920.

4,030,778ft. value £77,953.

1921.

10,069,033ft. value £197,820.

Sawn for 9 months to end of September—
1920.

14,124,026ft. value £311,480.
£2.2 per 100ft.

1921.

22,113,574ft. value £345,706.
£1.56 per 100ft.

ROUGH SAWN.

Imported ten months ended October 31st, 1921.

Oregon—

Canada.		per 100	
S. ft.	£	s.	d.
4,086,856	41,115	20	1.50
U.S.A.		per 100	
S. ft.	£	s.	d.
6,844,271	71,462	20	10.6