

Report of the Director of Forestry New Zealand Forest Service for the Year ended 31st March, 1960

By authority, R. F. Owen, Government Printer, Wellington. Price 4/-.

IN the prologue to this report of the Director of Forestry, the Minister for Forests makes a very important statement on forest policy as follows—

“This year, the fortieth anniversary of the New Zealand Forest Service, we are preparing to commence work on one of the most important developments in the evolution of forest policy. This is, we are now ready to plant exotic forests at an ever-increasing rate which will mean that the area will be doubled by A.D. 2000 and trebled by 2025.”

He states further on—“Our prosperity stems from a copious and well distributed rainfall and uniformly mild temperatures. The same soils that have made our dairy, wool and meat production world famed could also lead to making our forests and their products into a source of much greater wealth and prosperity. . . . Surely we have not set our sights too high when we speak of trebling our exotic pine forests in 55 years.” The New Zealand Minister then comes forward and makes a powerful plea for his Department and gives his direct personal

approval and backing to the work. "The report which follows is one which echoes my confidence in the future of New Zealand's forests."

In his report the Director of Forestry make a remarkable and strong claim for more land and more finance for forestry development in New Zealand. He argues the need for a dynamic forest policy, backing his statements by facts and figures. He sets the target for exotic forest plantation at 3,000,000 acres by 2025 A.D. and aims at a figure for export of 150,000,000 cubic feet.

On private planting he states "extensive planting by farmers would relieve the State of an enormous financial responsibility, even to the extent of providing one out of the extra two million acres which should be planted".

This report contains, as well as the detailed statistical information in a series of 37 appendices, a statistical summary from which the following figures are of interest. Forest revenue £3,291,648; State exotic forest—net planted area 483,532 acres; planted during the year, 7,146; timber removed from State forests (exotic) 38,092 cubic feet. The total exotic forest of New Zealand—State and Private—is 930,000 acres.

One of the most interesting features of State forestry in New Zealand is the rôle it has played and is playing in the pulp and paper industry. Based on the Kaingarva State forest, the Murupara Scheme of the Tasman Pulp and Paper Co. Ltd., largely the brain child of the Forestry Service, is now a huge business with an output of newsprint, woodpulp and sawn timber, valued at £7,242,000 (net). In this connection the Director of Forestry comments "The Government likewise has been the sole promoter of the newsprint industry, selling locally and overseas at world parity in both price and quality. For several decades users and competitors scoffed at the prospects, but to-day it is the only sector of the industry in New Zealand so operating. All others rely on local sales, protection by duties, import licensing, and so on for the bulk of their profits. Governments, bearing in mind the need to diversify primary production, must take a far-sighted view that forest soils make their maximum contribution to the national economy only if they can support a competitive export and domestic market and earn overseas funds".

The Kaingarva forest is under working plan control and a most interesting account of the working plan is given by the Management Division of the Service.

There are many interesting reports from the various sections, e.g. public and private forestry, research, engineering work, industrial, commercial and operational. The Timber Industry is reviewed in detail, including the home timber trade and the export timber trade.

It is obvious from this report that the New Zealand Forestry Service means business and is in business in a big way. It is dynamic and aggressive and remarkably successful and sets an excellent headline for other services.