

The following minor forest produce was removed under permit :

	1948-49.		1947-48.		1946-47.	
	Indigenous.	Exotic.	Indigenous.	Exotic.	Indigenous.	Exotic.
	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.	Number.
Poles	10,300	..	9,600	..	5,000	..
Strainers	23,300	..	21,000	..	17,600	..
Posts and stakes	565,700	..	430,600	..	357,600	16,000
Stays	13,700	..	8,100	..	7,300	..
Sleepers	14,100	..	20,000	..	17,000	8,400
House blocks and pole blocks	17,700	..	14,300	..	5,900	..
Battens	1,164,800	..	1,136,100	9,300	982,800	..
Bridge stringers	40	..	10	..	170	..
Survey pegs	500	..	..	..	..	..
Firewood (cords)	900	50	600	30	360	260
Mining timber (pieces)	55,000	9,700	61,400	12,700	54,600	3,700
Rails	240	..	..	..	..	..
Chopping-blocks	100	..	1,200	100	..	..
Tomato-stakes	1,400	..	38,600	..	..	..
Shingles	..	..	184,500	..	..	..

Indigenous and exotic timber extracted by the Forest Service itself is dealt with in Chapter VI, Section (I).

SOIL CONSERVATION

At the present time when the Forest Service is embarking on extensive schemes for the production and utilization of timber from exotic forests, there is a tendency to overlook the less spectacular but equally important work which is being undertaken in connection with protection forests. The use of vegetation in stabilizing soil and regulating stream-flow has long been recognized; and the management of forests on the steeper hill country, primarily for protection purposes, is regarded as one of the major responsibilities of the Service. Out of a total of nearly 9,250,000 acres which comprise the forest estate, it is estimated that over 6,000,000 acres can be classed as essentially protection forest. Much of this land consists of mountain-tops and precipitous and inaccessible back country where extraction of timber is impossible; and the value of such forest lies in the protection which it affords to the highly productive farming-land below. In some instances, however, extraction of milling timber, where practicable, may be permitted on a restricted scale if there is no danger of accelerating erosion. The chief enemies of these forests are fire and browsing animals; and the judicious removal of mature trees, where this is possible, does not adversely affect the valuable properties which are associated with protection forests.

All timber-sale proposals on State and Maori-owned lands are subject to careful scrutiny from the viewpoint of possible erosion. Where erosion is likely to follow felling and extraction, the proposal is either refused or modified in the case of State forest areas, or made the subject of strong representations to the Maori Land Court or Maori Land Board respecting Maori-owned land.

The Forest and Rural Fires Act, 1947, which was sponsored by the Forest Service, provides adequate means for the prevention and control of fire on protection forest areas; but the position with regard to animal pests gives cause for grave concern. In Southland Conservancy, where ecological research is being carried out in the indigenous beech forests, evidence points to the ultimate disappearance of the forest unless deer can be brought effectively under control. This conclusion has Dominion-wide application and merits very careful attention. Damage by opossums and goats