

tourists even now. I know Mr. Gray well. He is an independent gentleman, who bought the bush for the sole purpose of preventing its destruction; so it is safe in his hands at present. He told me he had asked your predecessor to instruct Ross to prevent any one destroying it, and this had been promised. Perhaps you would draw Mr. Donne's attention to the matter if Ross has passed to his Department.

Pukaki Island.—The small freehold section of 20 or 30 acres on this island should be acquired by the Government, and the whole island planted. There is some scrub and five or six large birch-trees on the island—I believe on the freehold. Formerly there was quite a small forest on the freehold, which has nearly all been cut for firewood or posts. It is much to be regretted it was not protected, and what is left should be acquired now.

Waimate, or Kelcey's Bush.—This 600 acres, more or less, has been offered to the Government, and should, I think, be acquired. It covers the future water-supply of Waimate, which will probably dry up considerably when it is cut, and it was a very favourite resort for picnic parties from Waimate and the surrounding district. If it is to be purchased at all it should be done immediately, as very extensive firewood-cutting and general clearing are being done in it.

Waimate, Mr. Francis's Bush.—Mr. Francis holds about 15 acres of pine forest close to Waimate, the only bit of the outer Waimate bush left. He is not likely to want to part with it, as it is such an ornament to his property; but I think there will be no harm in asking him to place it under offer to the Government should he ever contemplate parting with it.

Forest Reserve, Hook River.—The purchase of Sections 18311, 18312, 18313, and 17921, part 20913 above road, and 35831, in all about 137 acres, would add greatly to the value of the 285-acre forest reserve, as it would give good access and command of all the bush at the head of the Hook River: it would also provide better access to Run 48 than there is in any other direction. The roads north of and adjoining 20913 and the one running through the north-east corner of 18311 are both well-formed, good driving-roads. This purchase would give the public a nice camping-ground, and I think it would not cost very much.

GAZETTED RESERVES FOR PRESERVATION OF NATIVE FORESTS, ETC. (CLASS A.)

Section.	District.	Block.	Area.			Purpose.	Date of Reservation.
			A.	R.	P.		
3114	Mount Thomas ...	V., VI., IX., X., XI.	7,200	0	0	Growth and preservation of timber	July 26, 1881.
3115	Upper Ashley ...	XII., XV., XVI.	6,000	0	0	Ditto	"
	Mount Thomas...	IX., XIII.					"
3116	Kowai ...	VI.	432	0	0	"	"
	Alford ...	IV.					"
3117	Spaxton ...	I.	5,735	0	0	"	"
	Scmers ...	XII., XVI.					"
	Hutt ...	VIII.					"
3118	Hutt ...	VIII.	1,500	0	0	"	"
3119	Alford ...	III., IV., VII., VIII., XI.	8,750	0	0	"	"
3120	Kowai...	IX., XIII.	2,560	0	0	"	"
3121	" ...	III., IV., VIII.	3,842	0	0	"	"
3122	" ...	II., III., IV., VII.	1,700	0	0	"	"
3064	Pigeon Bay	VIII.	595	0	0	"	Dec. 3, 1895.
3262	Katrine ...	I., II., III.	6,000	0	0	State forest	Aug. 13, 1898.
3263	" ...	V., VI., VII., VIII.	7,500	0	0	"	"
3264	Noble ...	I., II.	1,100	0	0	"	"
	Katrine ...	IV., VIII.					"
	Esk ...	II., III.					"
3265	Katrine ...	X., XI., XIV., XV.	10,000	0	0	"	"
3266	Okuku ...	I., V.	2,000	0	0	"	"
3267	" ...	IX., XIII.	800	0	0	"	"
	Esk ...	XII., XV., XVI.					"
3268	Upper Ashley ...	III., IV.	10,000	0	0	"	"
	Okuku ...	IX.					"
	Esk ...	XVI.					"
3269	Okuku ...	XIII.	1,500	0	0	"	"
	Upper Ashley ...	IV.					"
	Mount Thomas...	I.					"
3270	Grey ...	V., VI., IX.	2,400	0	0	"	"
3271	Mount Thomas ...	X., XI., XIV.	450	0	0	"	"
	Upper Ashley ...	XV., XVI.	7,600	0	0	"	"
3272	Mount Thomas...	IX., XIII.					"
3273	Upper Ashley ...	II., V., VI.	3,300	0	0	"	"
	Carried forward	...	90,964	0	0		