

APPENDIX III. — REPORT ON THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IN THE AUCKLAND AND MARLBOROUGH LAND DISTRICTS.

AUCKLAND.

THROUGHOUT the past year the timber industry generally has been exceptionally brisk, both in the production and sale of timber of all kinds.

Kauri.—With regard to the kauri timber, I might state that a record number of logs were received at the several timber companies' booms, owing to the very heavy rains and freshes experienced. Notwithstanding the large log-supplies to hand, keen competition resulted for the purchase of the several kauri bushes offered by the Crown. Although this class of timber is getting somewhat remote, and consequently more expensive to work, the prices realized were satisfactory, ranging from 2s. per 100 superficial feet for small lots to 3s. 1½d. for larger lots.

It may be of interest to note the high retail prices now ruling for sawn kauri timber as compared with the prices current as at July, 1899.

Ordinary Building-timber, undressed, up to 24 ft. long, ¾ in. to 1 in. or more in thickness, and not exceeding 12 in. wide, at per 100 sup. ft.

	First Class.	Medium.	Second Class.
July, 1899	13/	10/6	7/6
July, 1900	14/	11/6	8/6
June, 1901	15/	12/6	9/6
August, 1903	16/6	13/6	10/6
September, 1906	17/6	14/	10/6
December, 1907	20/	17/	12/
April, 1910	22/	17/6	12/
December, 1910	24/	18/6	12/

Upon reference to the table hereunder it will be seen that during the year large quantities of kauri timber have been disposed of, and as such large sales are rapidly diminishing the number of Crown forests, it seems expedient that the sales should gradually be lessened each year with the view to conserving the future supplies.

The kauri-timber trade locally has been very brisk, especially in the joinery line, whilst the southern and coastwise trade has also been well maintained, the demand being principally for wide boards. Large shipments of kauri timber are still being exported to Australia, and a few shipments have been made direct to the United Kingdom during the year.

Rimu.—The trade in this class of timber has greatly improved, and sawmillers within the Waikato district have found it very difficult to complete orders, and in many instances have been required to purchase rimu from sawmillers further south to cope with the demand.

Kahikatea.—The prices obtained for sawn white-pine timber throughout the year have greatly exceeded those of past years. Owing to the prosperous agricultural season in Australia and throughout the Dominion the output for this kind of timber for butter-boxes has been greatly augmented, and the heavy stocks held during the previous years by sawmillers have been considerably decreased.

Totara and Matai.—These timbers find a ready sale, and high royalties are paid for the standing timber.

Tanekaha.—In the Waikato district there is a fair demand for this timber for flooring-boards, and very satisfactory sales have been effected.

The following table shows the various kinds of timber disposed of during the year:—

—	Kauri.	Rimu.	Kahikatea.	Totara.	Matai.	Miscellaneous.	Total.	Amount realised.
	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	Sup. ft.	£ s. d.
Crown lands and lands for settlement	15,328,288	5,094,664	482,858	129,569	493,837	143,582	21,672,798	19,322 19 0
State forests	21,617,774	19,476	576	8,049	245	443	21,646,563	15,571 5 0
Totals	36,946,062	5,114,140	483,434	137,618	494,082	144,025	43,319,361	34,894 4 0

Sections loaded with Value of Timber.

..	104,126	183,179	487,767	468,510	..	..	1,243,582	475 6 0
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Timber measured and disposed of for Education Department.

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Export of Timber from 1st April, 1910, to 31st March, 1911.—From Auckland and other ports: Kauri 19,262,002 sup. ft., value £134,395; kahikatea, 13,008,415 sup. ft., value £53,365; other kinds 291,528 sup. ft., value £1,557: total 32,561,945 sup. ft., value £189,317. From Kaipara: Kauri 10,775,246 sup. ft., value £64,233; kahikatea 21,199,148 sup. ft., value