

FOREST MINOR INDUSTRIES.

In Europe, India, and America the forest is much more fully utilized than it is in new countries. In Europe turpentine, resin, tar, charcoal, pine, oils, and tanning are obtained from the forest; in fact, it may be said that in Europe the whole tree is used up. In this country however, a small amount of kauri-gum is the only secondary forest product obtained. As soon, however, as the financial pressure caused by the war is relieved it might be as well to make experiments in tapping kauri and other native coniferous trees for resin; and also to try the practicability of the extraction on a commercial scale of tannin-extract and dyes from various native trees. Further, bearing in mind how rapidly our native milling-timbers are being used up, it is desirable to experiment with some of our native timbers to test if by anti-septic treatment their defect of durability can be removed, so as to allow of their being used for purposes for which that defect now makes them unsuitable.

FOREST FIRES.

Forest fires are unfortunately the frequent accompaniment of the settlement of new countries, and this Dominion has in the past lost from this cause large areas of milling-timbers that would if now existing be of huge aggregate value. It is pleasing to record that last year, though in some districts droughts prevailed, the loss of native milling forest by fire was very small. To make the valuable Waipoua Kauri Forest more secure there are now three permanent Rangers kept there. It is hoped that by inserting warnings in the Press during the the summer months to make persons in outlying districts more careful in the matter of lighting fires.

NEW FOREST RESERVATIONS AND WITHDRAWALS FROM RESERVATION.

During the year a total area of 25,950 acres was added to the State-forests reservation. Of this area, 11,350 acres were in Nelson Land District and 12,600 acres in the Southland District.

A total area of 194½ acres was withdrawn from reservation, 23½ acres being in the Taranaki District and 171 acres in the Marlborough District.

WAIPOUA KAURI FOREST DEMARCATION.

In the spring a distinguished forest expert, Mr. D. E. Hutchins (late of the Indian and South African Forest Services) made a demarcation survey of the Waipoua Kauri Forest, but his report and plans have not yet been received. Mr. Hutchins is also reporting on the larger questions of the future treatment of our native forests and afforestation for New Zealand.

FORESTS ARE STATE CAPITAL.

In the administration of forests it has sometimes been found that the residents of a district hold the opinion that the timber growing in that district is their special property, and should be exploited for their special benefit. This is an altogether wrong opinion, for the natural resources of a State are the capital of the State and should be treated in such manner as is to the best advantage of the whole population.

RETURN SHOWING THE TOTAL QUANTITY AND VALUE OF THE UNDERMENTIONED KINDS OF TIMBER IMPORTED INTO NEW ZEALAND AND THE NET CUSTOMS DUTY COLLECTED ON TIMBER DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Heading.	Quantity.	Net Duty collected.*	Value.
Round logs—	Sup Feet.	£	£
Ironbark	795,354	32	9,715
Other timbers	270,322	26	2,626
Hewn logs—			
Ironbark	1,623,969	155	22,865
Jarrah	157,780	..	2,042
Other timbers	1,829,661	80	19,795
Sawn rough—			
Ironbark	570,926	534	5,348
Jarrah	2,917,410	2,676	22,613
Oregon pine (Canada)	106,893	112	516
Oregon pine (U.S.A.)	3,577,847	3,696	11,832
Other timbers	7,422,186	7,916	83,641
Sawn, dressed : Miscellaneous	59,942	146	1,268
	Number.		
Laths	2,349,660	246	1,737
Palings, split	478,965	627	4,501
Rails, split	5,297	12	116
Posts, split	14,540	63	437
Shingles	215,300	24	185
Miscellaneous	..	17	1,666
	Tons.		
Tanning-bark	3,057	316	31,563
Totals	..	16,678	222,466

* Including primage duty, 1 per cent. *ad valorem*.