

RETURN SHOWING THE TOTAL QUANTITY AND VALUE OF THE UNDERMENTIONED KINDS OF TIMBER EXPORTED FROM NEW ZEALAND AND THE TIMBER EXPORT DUTY COLLECTED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1917.

Heading.	Quantity.	Duty collected.	Value.
	Sup. Feet.	£ s. d.	£
Kauri	15,214,894	4 8 8	121,779
Kahikatea (white-pine)	44,769,516	..	216,202
Rimu (red-pine)	16,975,047	..	78,102
Beech (birches)	456,451	..	3,226
Miscellaneous (New Zealand)	99,948	..	622
„ (not New Zealand)	7,807	..	111
Tanning-bark (New Zealand)	46	..	421
„ (not New Zealand)	..	..	..
		4 8 8	420,467

APPROXIMATE QUANTITIES OF VARIOUS KINDS OF TIMBER IN LOGS DEALT WITH AT MILLS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1916.

(This table deals with logs cut at all mills but excludes timber that has been resawn.)

Provincial District.	Number of Mills.	Kauri.	Rimu (Red-pine).	Kahikatea (White-pine).	Matai (Black-pine).	Totara.	Others and Undefined.	Total.
		Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.	Sup. Feet.
Auckland	67	49,707,738	32,414,280	47,764,697	1,684,071	9,624,146	12 324,667	153,519,599
Taranaki	11	..	3,424,157	1,491,334	208,661	31,921	600,000	5,756,073
Hawke's Bay	12	..	4,152,220	588,331	395,749	51,500	10,000	5,197,800
Wellington	31	..	21,494,086	11,196,215	7,919,793	781,489	2,631,437	44,023,020
Marlborough	5	..	1,683,518	563,955	193,419	46,987	10,836	2,498,715
Nelson	28	..	3,842,555	1,196,067	176,622	37,887	514,980	5,768,111
Westland	31	..	46,165,984	16,043,706	..	..	323,296	62,532,986
Canterbury	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Otago	13	..	3,391,049	905,000	136,000	22,850	600	4,455,499
Southland	28	..	15,208,362	5,475,877	485,888	354,258	3,292,090	24,816,475
Totals for Dominion	226	49,707,738	131,776,211	85,225,182	11,200,203	10,951,038	19,707,906*	308,568,278

* NOTE.—Included in this total there are specified—Tawa 623,342 sup. ft., taraire 490,077, puriri 50,000, rata 31,300, silver-pine 18,000, pukatea 3,300, beech (called "birch") 5,710,060, yellow-pine 2,400, *Pinus insignis* 25,000.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF CROWN LANDS.

AUCKLAND.

(H. M. Skeet, Commissioner of Crown Lands.)

During the year the timber trade under the existing war conditions has been comparatively well maintained, and, notwithstanding the fact that the foreign trade has practically been suspended, the local, New Zealand, and Australian demand for timber has with few exceptions kept the whole of the sawmills fully engaged.

It has, however, been found necessary to close down most of the bush operations, owing partly to the exceptional increased log-supplies received through the unusual floods experienced during the past season, and partly to the scarcity of skilled bush labour. Although these log stocks are considered ample for present requirements, it is anticipated that there may possibly be a shortage before the end of the present year unless further supplies are obtainable during the summer months for those sawmillers who are more dependent on road traction than upon driving by water-power.

The increased demand by Australia for kahikatea timber is still very marked, and during the war period the export of this timber has constituted a record. If this heavy drain on the resources is maintained it is estimated that it will result in the supplies of kahikatea timber in this district being exhausted in about three and two-thirds years, so that the position in regard to this timber is one of considerable gravity.

Great difficulty is now being experienced by sawmillers in obtaining skilled labour both in their bushes and mills, with the result of lessened productions tending to an increased cost.

A temporary set-back to the butter-box and timber trade was caused through the destruction by fire of six large sawmills and box-factories in the Northern Wairoa district, King-country, and at Auckland, all within the period of a few months. With only two exceptions, however, all of these mills are again in course of re-erection.