

forests. At present there are several. You are recommended to secure the functioning of one authority, and one only, and that is the State Forest Service, which is the one instrument equipped to deal with forestry.

3. THE FOREST ACT.

Continuity of policy is vital to the practice of forestry, and you are therefore recommended, sir, to secure the expression of your forest policy in a Forest Act, thereby crystallizing a definite programme of State-forestry action at least for a working-period of five to ten years.

4. SCHOOL OF FORESTRY.

Your forest policy and programme will only make such progress as is possible by the operations of trained forest technicians. One year has now been lost in providing educational facilities. You are advised, sir, to establish the School of Forestry without delay.

5. APPOINTMENTS.

Two of the most important forest-conservation regions—namely, the Wellington Region, which embraces Hawke's Bay, Wellington, and Taranaki Provinces; and the Nelson-Marlborough Region, which includes these two provinces—are still without Conservators of Forests. The forest research and experimental programme is being sadly hampered through the lack of a trained forest investigator. You are advised, sir, to fill these three posts at the earliest possible opportunity, in order that our constructive programme may be kept in line with our administrative activities.

6. FOREST FIRES.

You are advised, sir, that the greatest enemy to successful forest-management in New Zealand is fire. Until and unless this arch-enemy can be controlled no forest plans are worth the paper they are written on. You are recommended, sir, to provide full and adequate powers in the Forest Act for the use of the Forest Service in dealing with this serious and grave danger to New Zealand's forest heritage.

L. MACINTOSH ELLIS,
Director of Forestry.

ANNEXURES.

ANNEXURE No. I.—STATE AND PROVISIONAL STATE FORESTS AS AT 31st MARCH, 1921.

Land District.	Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year, 1920.		Changes in Acres during the Fiscal Year, 1920–21. Net Increase in Area.		Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year, 1921.		Percentage of Area of Land District in State and Provisional State Forests.
	State Forests.	Provisional State Forests.	State Forests.	Provisional State Forests.	State Forests.	Provisional State Forests.	
North Auckland ..	106,039	Nil	911	14,898	106,956	14,898	2·7
Auckland ..	144,796	24,255	..	565,305	144,796	589,560	8·1
Hawke's Bay ..	199,653	15,350	..	Nil	199,653	15,350	3·9
Taranaki ..	69,564	35,264	..	815	69,564	36,079	4·3
Wellington ..	500,506	Nil	..	Nil	500,506	Nil	7·3
Nelson ..	19,955	1,288,221	..	682,847	19,955	1,971,068	42·2
Marlborough ..	79,753	105,631	..	Nil	79,753	105,631	6·7
Westland ..	442	1,126,944	1,100	500,059	1,542	1,627,961	42·1
Canterbury ..	290,176	Nil	..	Nil	290,176	Nil	3·0
Otago ..	129,465	231,379	..	21,643	129,465	253,022	4·2
Southland ..	125,953	466,328	..	54,754	125,953	521,082	8·2
Totals ..	1,666,302	3,293,372	2,011	1,840,321	1,668,319	5,134,651	

State forests and provisional State forests comprise 10·3 per cent. of the total area of the Dominion. Total area of State forests and provisional State forests at 31st March, 1921, 6,802,970 acres.

ANNEXURE No. II.—REPORT UPON FORESTATION OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH ISLAND.

(H. A. GOUDIE, Conservator of Forests, Rotorua Conservation Region.)

LABOUR.

Whilst there has been a fair amount of casual labour available during the year it has not always been possible to pick and choose, and on the whole it has been difficult to get men that were altogether suitable for the work. For three months prior to the withdrawal of the prison labour in July the