

FOREST-PRODUCTS RESEARCH.

Signal progress has been recorded in the field of forest-products research. The scope of investigation was wide, and achievements are recorded under five main divisions.

Timber Mechanics.—Determination of the mechanical properties of the five timber species, red, black, and hard beeches, kauri, and kamahi. Strength tests of full-sized poles of kaikawaka, silver-pine, *Eucalyptus amygdalina*, *E. ovata*, and *E. obliqua*, and cross-arm tests of red-beech and hinau.

Timber Physics.—Determination of the shrinkage of all native and introduced timbers, preliminary to a study of same in seasoning and kiln-drying methods.

Wood-preservation.—The treatment with creosote of the native hardwoods, kamahi, and red, silver, and mountain beeches, by the Rueping pressure process. Development of a preventive for sap-stain in white-pine and other timbers. Study of the preservative treatment of New-Zealand-grown eucalypts.

Derived Products.—The destructive distillation of kauri waste, bleeding of kauri-trees, and the deresinating and pulping value of kauri and other timbers.

Industrial Investigation.—Conduction of the 1924 Building Conference directed towards elimination of waste in building industry. Study of grading rules.

FOREST FINANCE.

The total receipts of £161,468, as compared with £93,479 for the previous year, created a new record for this Department.

These receipts were applied to the extent of nearly £80,000 in the creation of forest plantations, and other permanent forest improvements and capital; the sum of £40,000 (approximately) was expended in forest-protection, administration, and forest-management, whilst the surplus of £41,468 was allocated to various county backblock road improvements and reserved for the formation of additional commercial State plantations.

A capital sum of £100,000 was paid from Forest Debenture Account into the Lands Purchase Account for the purchase of 53,196 acres of the Selwyn Estate, Māmakū.

The National Endowment Account also benefited to the extent of £12,611 during the year.

REVIEW OF FOREST SERVICE FINANCE.

Period. Years.	Receipts. £	Payments. £	Period. Years.	Receipts. £	Payments. £
1924-25	161,468	114,298	1921-22	30,784	107,582
1923-24	93,479	98,304	1920-21	19,518	79,551
1922-23	63,372	85,410	1919-20	8,513	66,819

PRODUCTION OF SAWN TIMBER.

Another annual record was set in the quantity of sawn timber produced by millers cutting on State forests, over 102,369,900 ft. b.m. being manufactured during the year, as compared with 52,297,000 ft. b.m. in the previous year. The State forests produced 32 per cent. of the entire Dominion cut, and in another decade this proportion will be 75 per cent. The total production from all sources was 318,000,000 ft. b.m. The gross total ripe timber stumpage sold from State forests—namely, 69,253,000 ft. b.m.—to operating millers was approximately the same as in the year 1923-24: i.e., after excluding the large quantity disposed of to other Government Departments.

GENERAL.

The establishment at Auckland University College and at Canterbury University College of Schools of Forestry for the teaching of forest technicians and subordinate forest officers was finalized during the year. Progress in New Zealand forestry will be greatly facilitated thereby.

NATIONAL ARBORETUM AT ROTORUA.

During the year 50 acres were acquired at Rotorua for forming a national arboretum. The preliminary operations are well under way, and the area will be in complete working-order by the year 1929. About four hundred different conifers will be represented, and the arboretum will prove of great educative value to botanists, arboriculturists, and foresters, as well as the general public.

CONSERVATION OF WILD LIFE.

A fine sense of public and individual responsibility is becoming more evident throughout the Dominion with regard to the conservation of our wild bird and animal life, and in many districts our useful avifauna is again increasing, to the happiness and delight of all. The Service co-operated with the Department of Internal Affairs and the Native Bird Protection Society in enforcing the bird-conservation laws—prosecutions were instituted and conviction gained.

The "forestry in the schools" idea, so enthusiastically entered into by the Department of Education, is assisting in stimulating a latent love of nature and of the outdoors in the young citizens of New Zealand. Schools to the number of 765 have entered into the school nursery and plantation movement.

"Forestry as a useful economy is finding its true place in the life of the Dominion."