

CHAPTER V.—GENERAL.

1. LEGISLATION.

The only legislation affecting State forests enacted during the year was section 3 of the Mining Act, 1935, which restricts the operation of section 66 (f) of the Mining Act, 1926, by providing that no body corporate shall be entitled to exercise the authority to cut timber conferred on the holder of a miner's right except with the consent of the Minister of Mines and the Commissioner of State Forests, and subject to such terms and conditions as may be imposed.

It has always been recognized that a miner's right gives the holder thereof the right to cut and remove timber free of charge from unalienated Crown land (including State forests) for mining and his own domestic use—*i.e.*, for firewood, fencing, and the building of a house for occupation by him.

In addition to the individual miner, however, this right was hitherto enjoyed by commercial organizations.

The individual miner is not affected by this legislation.

2. FINANCE.

Receipts.

The increase in receipts over last year's figures—approximately £34,000—is convincing evidence that the milling industry is again in a flourishing condition. The gross receipts were £106,978, being the highest total recorded for eight years. Detailed figures are given in the attached schedule:—

TABLE 9.

Item.	1935-36.	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.
Indigenous-forests receipts—	£	£	£	£
Timber-sales	74,828	47,179	31,017	27,129
Timber royalties and trespass	5,006	5,449	3,164	3,667
Leases, grazing	1,757	1,646	1,816	1,637
Sawmill-sites, industrial, &c.	957	1,417	1,348	1,412
Miscellaneous	2,844	2,125	2,206	1,587
National Endowment Account allocation ..	15,712	10,990	6,612	6,221
Nurseries and plantations—				
Trees and seeds	5,874	4,094	6,546	3,542
Firewood and poles				
Miscellaneous				
Totals	106,978	72,900	52,709	45,195

Payments.

The year's expenditure shows an increase of £19,000 over last year's total, but this is accounted for mainly by increases in salaries and wages and additional payments to local bodies and National Endowment Account. Expenditure on the indigenous forests also shows a slight increase. Rigid economy and careful supervision over projects were responsible for keeping the expenditure down to the minimum under all heads consistent with efficiency.

TABLE 10.

Item.	1935-36.	1934-35.	1933-34.	1932-33.
Fixed charges and staff salaries—	£	£	£	£
Interest and expenses of raising loans ..	525	172	269	97,256
Staff salaries	41,374	34,155	32,901	34,232
Allocation of revenue—				
National Endowment Account	7,117	3,436	3,893	3,840
Local-body payments	9,243	5,903	3,508	3,259
Management, establishment, and develop- ment—				
Indigenous forests	14,763	11,735	8,817	9,501
Fire-fighting equipment and prevention ..	415	805	820	668
Educational: Reference library, &c. ..	260	445	120	411
Research and experimental equipment, &c.	836	528	1,022	1,017
Afforestation: Nurseries and plantations ..	60,642	59,136	54,292	49,348
Land-purchase	70	..	10,542	12,646
Miscellaneous	500	343	202	205
Sand-dune reclamation	..	..	..	..
Totals	135,745	116,658	116,386	212,383