

4. STATE AFFORESTATION.

Very little planting of new areas was done during the year under review, the principal ones in the North Island being 640 acres as an addition to Tairua Plantation (Auckland Region), and two blocks of 619 acres and 644 acres respectively cut-over land underplanted in the northern part of the Wellington Conservancy. In the South Island a small area of 368 acres was added to Golden Downs Plantation.

The North Auckland project comprises about 8,900 acres lying along the east coast in the vicinity of Mangonui. Planting cannot be commenced this season as the establishment of a tree nursery—a necessary preliminary step—is not yet complete.

The South Island project, now known as Ashley State Forest, has an area of 4,749 acres and is located close to the town of Rangiora, North Canterbury. A topographical survey of the block was undertaken towards the close of the year, and at the end of that period 2,500 acres had been surveyed. A temporary camp has been established, and it is expected that 500 acres will be planted during the coming season.

Table 6 gives a statistical summary of afforestation operations at the close of the year; additional afforestation activities were blanking 2,784 acres, replanting 3,312 acres, and interplanting 155 acres. It will be observed that the total planted area at that date was 430,742 acres.

TABLE 6.—SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS IN PLANTATIONS AS AT 31ST MARCH, 1939.

Plantation.	Year of Commencement	New Area planted, 1938.	Total Net Area planted.	Gross Area of Plantation.
		Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Mangonui	*	..	..	8,927
Waipoua	1925	60	1,616	12,600
Puhupuhi	1904	..	1,176	1,558
Riverhead	1926	15	11,078	11,956
Maramarua	1928	8	12,311	14,087
Tairua	1930	640	11,785	48,510
Rotoehu	1937	67	303	30,402
Whakarewarewa	1898	..	8,033	10,065
Waiotapu	1901	..	7,051	7,974
Kaingaroa	1913	107	259,147	328,667
Tongariro	1937	619	696	1,800
Erua	1930	644	3,760	6,648
Karioi	1927	..	17,196	33,689
Golden Downs	1927	368	19,679	24,174
Westland	1922	..	3,064	5,839
Hanmer	1901	..	7,784	10,372
Balmoral	1916	23	21,242	24,041
Eyrewell	1928	..	18,343	19,266
Ashley	*	..	..	4,749
Naseby	1900	18	3,098	4,032
Dusky	1898	..	4,470	6,866
Conical Hills	1903	..	3,612	3,906
Pukerau	1915	..	565	628
Blue Mountains	1925	8	8,822	9,708
Pebbly Hills	1930	..	4,329	5,330
Minor areas	1875-1937	134	1,582	8,758
Totals	..	2,711	430,742	644,552

* New project.

5. SALES OF TIMBER.

With the exception of three conservancies—Auckland, Rotorua, and Southland—timber sales showed a slight reduction in comparison with last year's figures. In Westland the reduction was 13,200,000 ft. board measure, and in Wellington and Nelson 137,000 and 1,586,000 respectively. Notwithstanding this, however, the total volume of sawn timber cut from State forests (Warden's areas included) increased over the same period by 8,250,000 ft. board measure, the figures being 121,250,000 ft., against 113,000,000 ft. for 1937-38.