

With proper development of the economic research work of the Forest Service it should be possible to reduce the forest-products imports by at least 80 per cent., thereby effecting a direct annual saving to the community of at least £250,000 in transport charges alone.

FOREST SERVICE REFERENCE LIBRARY.

The resources of the central office and regional libraries in essential technical references, instructional works, and dendrological authorities were strengthened during the year by the addition of 902 works. Exchange relations have been established with practically every country carrying out forestry activities. Our exchanges totalled 450 publications with Empire and foreign services. The total number of books, works of reference, and other publications now filed is 2,057. (The public is invited to take advantage of the facilities offered by the reference library.)

THE FOREST ATLAS.

Out of the total number of eighty forest-atlas sheets which are being compiled, on a scale of 1·5 miles per inch, for the forested regions of New Zealand, fifty-one sheets have been completed, and five thousand copies have been distributed to the various regional officers. These forest-atlas sheets, which form the mother maps for all forest reconnaissances, surveys, cruises, silvical reports, and all other activities, are considered as the basis for the permanent and historical record of each forest. The atlas staff has produced during the year 1,034 plans, maps, tracings, and map-sheets. The photographic records have been added to during the year by the addition of 1,200 negatives, 196 lantern-slides, and 900 ft. of film descriptive of forest-work, the timber industry, and tree-planting. These have steadily improved during the year, and now include a fine series dealing with many of our principal timber-trees. In addition, the work performed by the Agricultural Department's staff photographer has provided a unique series of kauri-timber pictures. These photographs are indexed and recorded, and have proved of the greatest value for illustrative purposes.

OFFICE SYSTEM AND WORK.

A modern series system of current and permanent record filing was evolved and put into operation during the year. This system includes the international method of recording State forestry activities, and may be considered as embodying the latest improvements in office efficiency and routine. The regional offices have been closely co-ordinated with the central office in numbering and classification.

Correspondence.—Received: Letters, 12,200; telegrams, 600; parcels, 240; circulars, form letters, &c., 61. Despatched: Letters, 15,120; telegrams, 800; parcels, 576; circulars, form letters, &c., 2,200.

ANNEXURES.

ANNEXURE I.—STATE AND PROVISIONAL STATE FORESTS AND FOREST RESERVES.

AREA IN ACRES AT END OF FISCAL YEAR 1922.

Land District.	Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year 1921.		Changes in Area during the Fiscal Year 1921-22: Net Increase in Acres.		Area in Acres at End of Fiscal Year 1922.			Percentage of Area of Land District in Permanent and Provisional State Forest and Forest Reserves.
	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	State Forest.	Provisional State Forest.	Forest Reserves.	
North Auckland	106,956	14,898	Nil	1,192	98,981	16,690	3,193	2·6
Auckland ..	144,796	589,560	1,049	Nil	145,845	587,813	2,316	8·1
Hawke's Bay ..	199,653	15,350	Nil	38,385	199,653	53,735	16,921	4·9
Taranaki ..	69,564	36,079	Nil	6,560	69,500	42,639	40,811	6·3
Wellington ..	500,506	Nil	16,284	27,638	516,790	27,638	9,091	7·8
Nelson ..	19,955	1,971,068	Nil	13,475	19,955	1,984,543	8,470	42·7
Marlborough ..	79,753	105,631	1,990	14,000	81,743	119,631	6,194	7·5
Westland ..	1,542	1,627,961	636	104,551	2,178	1,732,512	119	44·9
Canterbury ..	290,176	Nil	104	Nil	290,280	Nil	..	3·0
Otago ..	129,465	253,022	Nil	64,110	128,280	317,132	543	4·9
Southland ..	136,306*	521,082	Nil	1,391	136,306	522,473	..	8·3
Totals ..	1,678,672	5,134,651	20,063	271,302	1,689,511	5,404,806	87,658	..

* Alteration due to revision of last year's figures.

Permanent and provisional State forests and forest reserves under Service control comprise 10·8 per cent. of the total area of the Dominion. Total area of State forest and provisional State forest at 31st March, 1922, 7,181,975 acres.