

4. INDUSTRIAL TECHNIQUE.

General.—In spite of the improved demand, most mills again operated at such a low percentage of capacity that few were able to invest in new or improved equipment. On the other hand, there is room for improvement in the adjustment and use of existing equipment to give more accurately and uniformly sawn timber, and officers of the Forest Service who were engaged in the supervision of the cutting and grading of timber for export to Great Britain report that a marked improvement was noticeable in both operations amongst sawmillers as they became familiar with buyers' requirements. The time is not far distant when the work of the Service should be reduced to the mere grade-marking of the timber to be exported.

Kiln Drying.—The value of artificial seasoning in producing well-dried, bright stock is being increasingly appreciated by the industry, and modern dry kilns were erected by Higgins and Fawcett, Hokitika, and Levett Bros., Harihari, for the drying of white-pine for box-manufacture, and by Wm. Smith and Co., Ltd., Invercargill, for the drying of building and furniture timbers. Although seven modern kilns are now in operation in New Zealand, only three concentrate on the drying of other than box timbers, and it is particularly desirable that further facilities be available for the kiln drying of building and furniture timbers. The use of local timbers could be considerably increased if adequate supplies of kiln-dried stock were readily available to consumers.

TABLE 5.
REPORTED PRODUCTION OF ROUGH-SAWN TIMBER, BY SPECIES.

(From information supplied by the Government Statistician. All figures refer to the years ended 31st March, 1931-1933.)

Species.	1931.		1932.		1933.	
	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.
	Ft. b.m.		Ft. b.m.		Ft. b.m.	
Rimu	124,999,000	54·5	71,082,000	46·1	76,193,000	45·8
White-pine	49,009,000	21·3	43,161,000	28·0	47,998,000	28·9
Matai	13,917,000	6·1	7,475,000	4·8	8,161,000	4·9
Kauri	8,943,000	3·9	6,891,000	4·5	5,410,000	3·3
Totara	9,468,000	4·1	5,344,000	3·5	6,347,000	3·8
Beech	7,681,000	3·3	5,757,000	3·7	5,781,000	3·5
Insignis-pine	12,740,000	5·6	13,405,000	8·7	14,676,000	8·8
Miro	1,078,000	0·5	228,000	0·1	441,000	0·3
Tawa	455,000	0·2	163,000	0·1	290,000	0·2
Rata	294,000	0·1	122,000	0·1	72,000	..
Other	884,000	0·4	565,000	0·4	900,000	0·5
Totals	229,468,000	100·0	154,193,000	100·0	166,269,000	100·0

TABLE 6.

REPORTED PRODUCTION OF ROUGH-SAWN TIMBER, BY PROVINCIAL DISTRICTS.

(From information supplied by the Government Statistician. All figures refer to the years ended 31st March, 1931-1933.)

Provincial District.	1931.		1932.		1933.	
	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.	Quantity.	Percentage of Total Quantity.
	Ft. b.m.		Ft. b.m.		Ft. b.m.	
Auckland	89,924,000	39·2	63,222,000	41·0	74,261,000	44·7
Hawke's Bay	9,566,000	4·2	10,430,000	6·8	7,647,000	4·6
Taranaki	2,860,000	1·2	2,146,000	1·4	1,980,000	1·2
Wellington	25,495,000	11·1	15,183,000	9·8	15,157,000	9·1
Marlborough	6,842,000	3·0	5,031,000	3·3	3,374,000	2·0
Nelson	5,747,000	2·5	4,833,000	3·1	5,651,000	3·4
Westland	50,785,000	22·2	34,256,000	22·2	38,773,000	23·3
Canterbury	3,033,000	1·3	2,854,000	1·9	2,817,000	1·7
Otago	8,290,000	3·6	4,017,000	2·6	2,969,000	1·8
Southland	26,926,000	11·7	12,221,000	7·9	13,640,000	8·2
Totals	229,468,000	100·0	154,193,000	100·0	166,269,000	100·0