

perils involved in Deforestation, as already set forth in my earlier articles—the destruction of soil, the flooding of rivers, the deterioration of climate, and the reduction of the country's productive powers—if, beyond all this, some further argument is needed to strengthen the case for Afforestation, we may find it in the large pecuniary profits always secured by either States, corporations, or private individuals who have undertaken, under favourable conditions, the lucrative work of tree planting

that have been secured from tree planting in England and America are due more or less to private initiative. In Perthshire not long since, a plantation of Douglas fir just forty years old, was valued at £200 an acre to the enterprising grower. But forty years is a long time to wait, and pecuniary results can be secured by judicious management in a much shorter period than this. In Kansas, we are told by Mr. T. H. Will, secretary of the American Forestry Association, a catalpa plantation, 10 years



OUR AFFORESTATION WORK—(3) LARCH PLANTATION, WAIOTAPU.

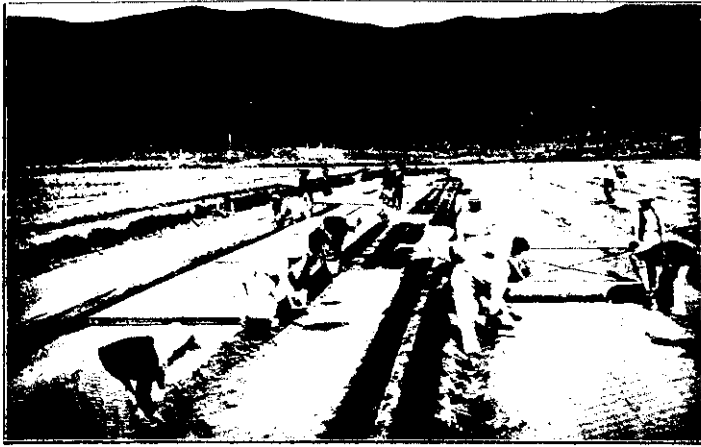
These trees are seven years old.

square miles of waste land, after 25 years' growth, yielded more than £25,000 worth of timber to the company in one year. Another plantation, owned by another railroad company, has been described by Professor Gifford, of Cornell University. Within twenty-five years this area of 400 acres could show a clear net profit of £28 per acre, and a gross value of nearly £70 an acre. These figures should be enough to impress the ordinary commercial imagination deeply enough. If any of my readers would

land were planted at a cost of about £2 per acre, and the expense of looking after the plantation has been very small. Today, after 17 years of growth, the timber is being sold at prices that yield from £100 to £200 per acre net profit.

Why Not Here and Now?

If all this can be done in Germany and America and Australia, there is certainly no reason why it cannot be done in New Zealand. And, as a matter of fact, practical experience in this



OUR AFFORESTATION WORK—(1) SEED SOWING AT ROTORUA NURSERY.

Private Enterprise.

It may be as well to remark here that so far as the general benefit to the country is concerned, this can be secured equally well whether the trees are planted by the State or by private individuals. And as an encouragement to those persons who may feel inclined to make practical use of the experience of other countries in this matter, I may point out that by far the most remarkable results

old, has been valued at £40 per acre; another in Nebraska, 14 years old, gave a net return of £37 per acre; another also in Nebraska, 16 years old, gave a net return of £31 per acre. Cedar plantations, twenty-five years old, produced £40 per acre in the United States, and European larch, of the same age, is worth from £40 to £60 an acre. A mixed plantation, started by a director of one of the Western railways in Kansas on two



OUR AFFORESTATION WORK—(4) CALIFORNIAN REDWOOD, SEVEN YEARS OLD, IN ROTORUA NURSERY.

prefer an illustration, taken from nearer home, I may quote an interesting case from Australia. Near Creswick, in Victoria, there is some wretchedly poor land, which has been planted with several varieties of pine. "The particular hill-side chosen," we are told, "is lightly covered with a lifeless clay soil, often so scanty as to lay bare the sandstone. The natural vegetation was of the most meagre and valueless kind. In the early days miners riddled the area for gold, and when the officers of the Government took charge it was a hillocky waste." About 700 acres of this very unpromising

country has already shown that tree-planting can be made a highly profitable venture within a relatively short space of time. In our official forestry hand-book, "Tree Culture in New Zealand," the late Mr. H. J. Matthews cites the case of a larch plantation started in Canterbury in 1887 on poor, dry soil. The land was worth £2 an acre, and the total cost of trees, fencing, and plantation was £12 an acre. Very little attention was given to the trees during their growth, and £1 per acre would

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OUR AFFORESTATION WORK—(2) EUCALYPTUS REGNANS, EIGHT YEARS OLD, 60 FT. HIGH.

One of the Australian gums on which experiments are being made.