

are higher trees than these; I believe I saw higher trees, but the forest was too dense for me to measure them.

#### QUALITY AND "STAND" OF NEW ZEALAND TIMBER.

In the quality of their timber the native trees of New Zealand seem to equal those of Europe. Kauri for indoor work and totara for outdoor work compare with oak. Rimu for ordinary house-building is better than Scotch pine. White-pine compares with spruce and silver-fir generally, but is better for butter-boxes. The timber of the New Zealand beeches seems much like that of the European beech, but the red or *fusca* New Zealand beech is decidedly better. The defective forestry of New Zealand has undoubtedly depreciated the value of the native timbers in allowing them to be felled out of season and used while the timber was still quite wet. Kauri ranks high on the English timber-market; pre-war prices were 4s. per cubic foot for kauri, against 3s. for such valuable timbers as black-walnut and pencil-cedar—in fact, there is no ordinary good timber that fetches a higher price than kauri on the English market. It is the same with kauri on the Australian market. But when one gets to New Zealand it is one of the saddest stories in the colonial history of the British Empire to learn how these valuable kauri-trees have been destroyed—destroyed, too, for no reason, for the kauri forest might just as well have been milled and preserved as milled and destroyed. All the good kauri land might have had the forest milled and cleared for settlers; but the bulk of the kauri forest which is on poor soil should have been demarcated into the national forest area of New Zealand. But, alas, there has been no discrimination, no forest demarcation—simply a reckless destruction in ignorance of the forestry methods of other countries.

None of the trees planted in the Government forest plantations have the same value as kauri, with the exception perhaps of Californian redwood, and that has been little planted; while of the little planted a proportion has been lost through faulty forestry—a wrong mixture in the planting.

Satisfactory as are the growth and value of the native trees, it must be remembered that their growth, in quantity and quality, in the wild unimproved forest, is being reduced by their being for a time dominated by other trees. Too much or too little growing-space will equally spoil a timber-tree. This loss of growth is shown on the cross-sections of most New Zealand trees that I have examined, and crookedness is a common fault in New Zealand timber. These faults will be remedied in the more regular cultivated forests of the future. The chief fault, however, in the New Zealand