

out of the country for imported timber is now being produced in South Africa.

And that is the main issue for New Zealand. Is it to lose half a million yearly (soon to be one million) or keep that half-million in the Dominion? If the natural forest had been demarcated fifty years ago, comparatively little forest-planting would have been required in New Zealand. But that was not done, and it is of no use now crying over spilt milk. The deficiency of natural forest must be made up with forest-planting, and the sooner that is done the better for the finances and industries of the Dominion, and, it may be added, the better for the development and settlement of the farm lands adjoining the boundaries of the demarcated forests, since roads and development of the forests render farming more productive and the conditions of living more attractive.

FIRE.

Fire is the bugbear of amateur forestry. It has been thought to be an obstacle to forestry in New Zealand. Actually, in no country that I know of is fire-protection easier. In New Zealand forests there is nothing like the danger from fire that exists in Australia, in South Africa, or in the southern pine forests of Europe. Of course there must be some organization, even in a country where the work is so easy as in New Zealand. As already mentioned, two of the forest plantations have been nearly burnt out, and there was a very dangerous fire at Hanmer shortly before my recent visit there. But with ordinary organization plantations in the damp climate of New Zealand would run little risk. Most of the native forest in its natural state will rarely burn, and here again only ordinary precautions are necessary to keep it free from any fire danger when it is being worked. In the forest plantations of New Zealand a few years good management now would go far towards repairing the mistakes of the past and endowing the country with valuable forest estates, but a more complete organization against fire is a first necessity.

(To be continued.)

The drawings of the small sheep-handling plant published in last month's *Journal* were after plans designed by Mr. H. Munro, Inspector of Stock, Wellington, for use at the Somes Island Quarantine-station, where a small flock of sheep is run by the Department of Agriculture. In connection with the plans as printed, the scale is given as 10 ft. to 1 in. This applied to the larger original drawing, and was inadvertently retained when the plan was photographically reduced to the size of the *Journal* page. As, however, all the measurements of the various parts of the plant are given on the plan, the matter of scale may be ignored.