

trees started with cultivation and those without. Another point we have noticed is that trees planted in short scrub seem to come away quicker than those planted in the open; the scrub seemingly protects and draws them up. This is not so among gorse, however, which has rather a retarding effect. In future we will burn off, before planting, all areas showing any growth of gorse.

The way pine-trees thrive and grow on our poor Moutere hill-country is nothing short of remarkable. In the last few years pines of all descriptions have been coming up from seed among the scrub. I have noticed a *Pinus insignis* which had come up through a dense

bush of manuka. The pine in its effort to get to the light had run up 7 ft. or 8 ft., and was no thicker than a man's forefinger.



PINUS INSIGNIS, PIGEON VALLEY.

Three years' growth from a yearling.

At first the planting was carried out with a spade, but latterly we have used a miner's pick with a short handle, and the results have been equally good, combined with greater convenience. With this style of planting on the roughest of country—in places, in fact, that men often have trouble to climb—a man can plant a thousand trees per day. The men carry a supply of yearling plants—say, three or four hundred—in a bag slung over the back, and work from bases, just taking sufficient plants to see them out and back, so that there is no waste time walking about. In this climate we have found that the best results are achieved by planting fairly early in July or August—certainly not later, the percentage of misses in September planting being much greater.

FIRE-BREAKS.—FENCING.

In regard to the fire danger, we have guarded against it up to the present by burning fire-breaks. This is done just at the commencement of the dry season—say, in December—when the fires can be controlled.