

Fencing caused me no little concern at the commencement, the cost in small areas being often greater than the total cost of trees and planting. Lately I have dispensed with fencing also. Cattle are very destructive, but sheep do not seem to bother the trees much, nor do hares. The latter are severe on fruit-trees, but do not seem to touch the *Pinus insignis*. Of course, these remarks on fencing will depend largely on local conditions. For instance, the Rabbit Island Domain Board, which has been planting small areas after this style for several years, finds it absolutely necessary to fence and net everything securely, as rabbits happen to be very numerous in that particular locality. On the other hand, so far as the bulk of our Nelson fruit country is concerned—the Moutere lands in particular—



PLANTATION OF PINUS INSIGNIS ON MOUTERE HILLS.

Five years' growth from yearlings.

my experience has shown that it is safe to plant without fencing, and the larger the area planted the less risk is there relatively of damage from sheep, hares, deer, &c.

THE FIREWOOD FACTOR.

In writing this short article I have always had in mind that the remarks were particularly applicable to settlers in our new apple country in the Nelson district. On this class of country settlers are usually destroying every stick and scrap of firewood—natural forest there is practically none—and coal has to be brought in over bad roads. The man with timber plantations of any description will have a very valuable asset for firewood purposes in about ten years. For this purpose it is not a question of waiting for twenty years. The thinnings can be used for firewood and will yield a very handsome return quite as soon as an apple-orchard. Every farm should have a plantation of trees; it is as necessary in household