

economy as the family cow and the kitchen-garden. When one considers the pressing need and the present inadequacy of our national efforts at afforestation it is sufficient to cause every thinking man alarm. Thousands of acres in the Nelson District at present lying idle would grow pines admirably.

NOTE.—The matter of protection of young trees from live-stock must be treated with every caution. The methods described by Mr. Kingsland in his very useful article have doubtless proved satisfactory in the locality referred to, where sheep are not numerous. The common experience, however, is that sheep are very destructive to *Pinus insignis* and similar young trees. In ordinary circumstances sheep should not be admitted to pine plantations before the trees are at least 6 ft. high. The nipping of the young trees by sheep tends to produce more than one leader, which spoils the growth for timber purposes.—EDITOR.

POISONING RABBITS WITH STRYCHNINE.

WITH reference to the use of strychnine for poisoning rabbits, Mr. G. H. Blair, of Hillend, Balclutha, forwards the following informative note. In drawing attention to this method it is advisable to give a reminder of the intensely poisonous nature of strychnine—even in minute quantities—to human beings, and of the necessity for inexperienced operators to observe extreme precautions in handling the poison. Mr. Blair states,—

I have had three years' experience poisoning rabbits with strychnine. My method, which I have found most successful, is to put 15 lb. of oats into a kerosene-tin, add 2 lb. of molasses, fill up with water, stir to dissolve the molasses, and boil till the oats are soft; then strain off the liquor. With oats treated thus I feed the rabbits three times, then poison by shaking one teaspoonful of powdered strychnine over 3 lb. of the boiled sweetened oats prepared in exactly the same way as for feeding. For feeding I lay baits of about one tablespoonful of the oats 5 yards apart, and baits of one teaspoonful of the poisoned oats for poisoning. I find it a good plan to count the baits laid, as I can then mix almost the exact quantity of poisoned oats required, there being, roughly, 210 poisoned baits in 3 lb. When mixing a big quantity, 24 lb. of boiled sweet oats go to 1 oz. of strychnine. The liquor strained out of the oats can be used over and over again if kept clean and sweet, and I just add about half the first quantity of molasses when using it again.

So far this season I have used 3 oz. of strychnine and picked up 1,101 rabbits, and this on ground that trappers could not get good catches on. All my neighbours are using this recipe with great success for coping with bunny, and have given up entirely the use of phosphorized pollard and oats in favour of the above. I have had a lot of inquiries this season from all parts of Otago and Southland.