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**AN ECONOMIC INVESTIGATION OF THE  
MONTANE TUSSOCK-GRASSLAND OF NEW  
ZEALAND.\***

No. I.—INTRODUCTION.

By Dr. L. COCKAYNE, F.R.S.

GENERAL.

**A**FTER crossing the actual divide of the Southern Alps from the west a point is soon reached at about an altitude of 2,000 ft. in the north to 1,000 ft., more or less, in the south, where the dense forest of the west gives place, all on a sudden, to a curious grassland composed for the most part of brown tussocks. This point marks the average limit of the heavy western rainfall. Frequently such rain extends to the very margin of the forest, while less than a mile to the eastward the sun is shining, or, at most, a few drops of rain are carried by that furious gale which nearly always accompanies the downpour. So sharp is this distinction between western forest and eastern grassland, commencing at the

\* Dr. Cockayne was recently appointed by the Department to conduct an economic investigation of our montane tussock-grassland, and has now carried out a good deal of preliminary work. The present is the first of a series of articles on the subject which he will contribute to the *Journal*.—EDITOR.