

to clear if it is private land. Already I have had statements from settlers that if they are unable to have the white-pine timber milled they must fell and burn it. It happens that the white-pine can be used in Australia for purposes for which it has gone out of use here, because for some reason the borer does not attack it in Australia. There is therefore a market in Australia for white-pine for building purposes, and, further, parts of the logs, which are regarded as refuse in New Zealand, are used in Australia for various purposes. We cannot postpone the destruction of the white-pine, because the land under it is valuable, and to entirely prohibit the export would only have the effect of ensuring its destruction by fire. The timber is so valuable for butter-boxes that it has always seemed most desirable to preserve it for use for that purpose as long as possible. But to effect that object it would be necessary to prohibit its rapid destruction, and that is impossible as against the urgent demand for the good land upon which it generally grows. There are areas, however, where the kahikatea is largely dispersed among rimu, and I trust that by withholding those areas from sale, and transferring them to the State forests, we may be able to continue the supply of white-pine for butter-boxes to New Zealand producers for some considerable time longer.

I think it necessary to allude to the fact that with regard to national-endowment lands the Law Officers have advised that they cannot be proclaimed as provisional State forests because of the preceding statutory appropriation of their revenues. I think that this difficulty can be met by appropriate legislation without unduly affecting the existing appropriation. The forest upon national-endowment lands should certainly be conserved at least as much as the forest upon lands which have not been by existing legislation reserved for the benefit of the future inhabitants.

Finally, I want your help and advice. Every one of you has far more experience than myself of the conditions and the difficulties. It is too much to hope or expect that there shall be no differences of opinion as we proceed to draw the demarcation-lines between the lands to be transferred to State forests and the lands you will control for disposition to the public. But with the co-operation of the Minister of Lands, and your help, I shall trust that the benefit of the doubt may be given in every case to an addition to the lands under the control of the Commissioner of State Forests, where there shall continue to grow and be milled the timber required for the use of the people of New Zealand.

CANTERBURY SEED-GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

THE association is again this year distributing pure seed-wheat grown under the inspection of the honorary secretary, Dr. Hilgendorf, of Lincoln College. The following varieties are available—namely, Hunters or Red Chaff, Solid-straw Tuscan, Purple-straw Tuscan, and true Pearl—all of which have undergone five years' trial at Lincoln College, and have during that period shown themselves superior to commercial seed of the same variety. There are also small lots of White-straw Tuscan and Velvet raised as pure strains by a member of the association, but which have not yet been put through exhaustive competitive trials. Every sack of seed sent out bears a tag certifying that it has been inspected while growing, that it is true to name, relatively pure, and free from noxious weeds.

FORTHCOMING WINTER SHOWS.

Otago A. and P. Association: Winter Show, at Dunedin, 3rd to 6th June.

Waikato Winter Show Association: At Hamilton, 3rd to 7th June.

Taranaki Agricultural Society: Winter Show, at New Plymouth, 11th to 14th June.

Manawatu and West Coast A. and P. Association: National Dairy Show, at Palmerston North, 17th to 20th June.

Rangitikei A. and P. Association: Winter Show, at Taihape, 25th and 26th June.