

# N.Z. Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs



*Edited by S. Freeman, Dominion Organizing Secretary*

## Y.F.C. National Centennial Memorial Tree Planting Scheme

**A**FTER reviewing reports from the various councils, the special committee appointed by the Dominion Executive to consider the proposed Y.F.C. National Centennial Memorial Tree Planting Scheme decided at a recent meeting that it would be practicable to proceed with the undertaking. A circular briefly outlining the proposals was forwarded to all units of the organisation.

The scheme embraces the planting by clubs and club members of trees as a National Centennial Memorial, the trees to be supplied, through the Federation, by the Department of Internal Affairs, and made available for the 1940 planting season. It will be a contribution by the Young Farmers' Clubs towards a memorial to the early settlers who have done so much for the Dominion; the project envisages the planting of public grounds, etc., with trees.

The report prepared for the committee by Mr. A. C. Cameron, Chairman of the Otago-Southland Council, is so comprehensive that it has been adapted to serve as a detailed explanation and a guide for clubs which intend to undertake the scheme in their respective districts.

### Objective

The objective is to be the permanent improvement of one or more areas of public ground by tree planting as a Young Farmers' Club District Centennial Memorial. The trees should be planted in a spot where they will be seen and admired by residents in the district.

Due regard should be given to the size of the trees when grown, the needs of road safety, and such things as possible overhead wires and other factors which might lead to the damaging or removal of the trees at some future date.

### Position

Club members should scout round without delay and decide upon a suitable position for the memorial. In deciding upon a position the following suggestions may be helpful:—

(a) As a rule, each district has a natural centre, and there may be suitable places in or adjacent to such a centre where planting could be carried out. The planting may take the form of specimen trees or groups of trees.

(b) The planting may be done in the local domain or A. and P. Society's grounds, and may take the form of specimen trees bordering the ground, a group of trees in a corner, or an avenue leading in.

(c) The planting may be done round a local dairy factory, school, hospital, or any other public institution.

(d) Where the highway has been straightened, planting could be done where the road used to be, provided the old surface is broken.

(e) The Lands and Survey Department has agreed to advise clubs, upon application, of any Crown lands handy to district centres, areas reserved for domains, special reserves, etc., where planting could be done, and it is suggested that clubs explore the possibilities in this direction before deciding where planting will take place. Application may be made direct to the local Field Inspector, Lands and Survey Department, or through the Dominion Y.F.C. Organising Secretary in Wellington.

(f) Roadside planting may be done in certain highways, specimen trees being recommended for this, the trees to be planted approximately a chain apart.

(g) Where the most suitable spot would appear to be private land adjacent to a centre or highway, for example, a corner where crossroads meet, the owner might be persuaded to

make a gift of such land to the district, the district authorities attending to the necessary survey and transfer, and paying the cost. There are, doubtless, difficulties in this connection, but they are not insurmountable. (Mr. Cameron states that he has had many experiences of such gifts of land in connection with the Dunedin Amenities Society.)

(h) It has been suggested that the top of a hill in a district might be planted. This has possibilities, but it is considered that such a proposition would mean planting with conifers or cypresses, as other trees do not thrive too readily in too exposed positions.

### Permission

In every case, before proceeding with the work permission must be obtained in writing from the competent authority, that is, the Public Works Department or county council in the case of roadside planting, and directors of dairy factory, education board, and school committee, A. and P. Society, domain board, as the case may be.

### Protection

It is useless planting trees unless consideration is given to the following factors:—

(a) There must be sufficient soil to give the trees an adequate start.

(b) If the position is windswept it may be necessary to plant a temporary break of *pinus insignis* on the weather side or to erect a manuka fence.

(c) The trees must be fenced off from stock, and in certain localities rabbit netting will be essential.

The fencing will, in many cases, prove the deciding factor in selecting a position, as obviously there is a limit to what individual clubs can afford. Specimen trees may be protected by, say, a ten- or twelve-foot square consisting of four stout posts with barbed wire (and rabbit netting where necessary), care being taken to prevent cattle from stretching over the wire. If no fenced area is available and trees have to be planted on the roadside in this manner, then a club may have to