

Southern Upland or Beech District.—This takes in everything in the Middle Island between 1,000 ft. and 4,500 ft., above which the beech, the predominating tree in the district, disappears, as the last survivor of the ascending forests.

The rimu and kahikatea are often found above 1,000 ft., yet they rarely occur in any great quantity, or exhibit great luxuriance; so, on the other hand, the different beeches occasionally descend even to the sea level, although rarely forming any large portion of the forest at extremely low levels. The most valuable forest tree is the tooth-leaved beech, which attains exceptional luxuriance and large dimensions in the neighbourhood of Te Anau Lake, and many other localities.

Silver-beech and entire-leaved beech are found as far south as Preservation Inlet and Tautuku Forest, while the mountain beech prefers higher levels, although occasionally a few specimens descend to the rimu district. None of the beeches extend to Stewart Island, which in many parts is covered with a dense growth of rimu, kamahi, and rata, the kahikatea being extremely rare.

The Forest Laws.

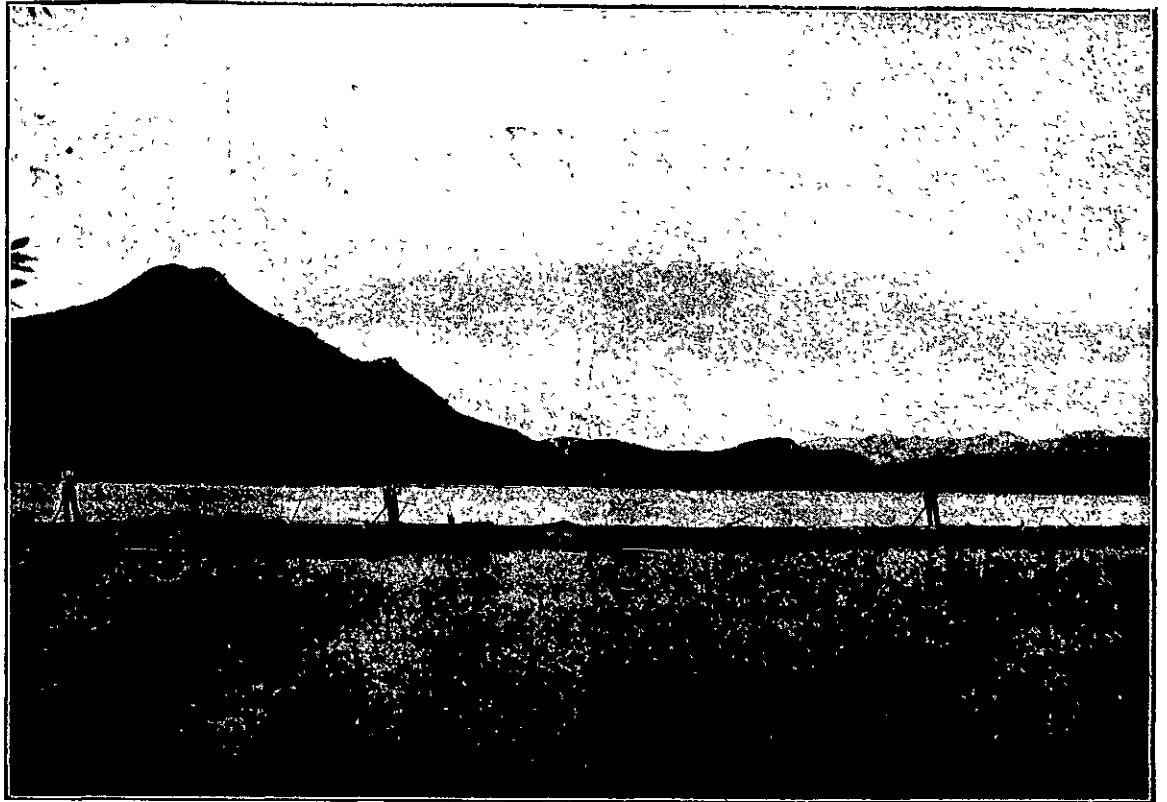
The forests of New Zealand are under State control, as provided by the State Forests Act of 1885, and the Land Act of 1892. There are 20,500,000 acres of forest lands—of course not all fit for milling. They are divided by law into

(1) State Forests proclaimed under the Act,

(2) All other forests or bush standing on Crown lands undealt with.

After the marketable timber is cleared off, the land is usually disposed of under the ordinary provisions of the Land Act. Large areas of bush are reserved for various purposes, such as shelter, scenery, protection of water supply, &c. From these reserves the tenants of the Crown, who are entitled by the terms of their leases to get timber from the waste lands of the Crown for improvements and domestic purposes, can only take the same with the permission of the Crown Lands Commissioner of the district and under conditions prescribed by him.

The law regulates such matters as felling, trespass, especially during the dry months of the year, protection against injury of all sorts, particularly damage by fire, the securing of way leaves, water rights and the erection of dams, booms and all things pertaining to the work of floating timber down to market; licenses for sawmilling, both by machinery and by hand, splitting, access to road tram and railway, cutting firewood, rails, sleepers and the rest; the avoidance of waste, and the enforcement of compensation for injury. Every forest tree is under the special protection of the government. The sawyer, the logger, the splitter, all are, by license, or agreement of one kind or another, under the dominion of the Department of Lands whose Minister is the head of the forestry department directly and indirectly, according to whether the forests are State forests or otherwise. Timber lands may be disposed of by lease or license, and standing timber may be sold after due notice when not



RATING LOGS.

under any of these agreements. There is a settled and well understood scale of royalties to be paid for the taking of timber.

The Working of the Timber Industry.—There has been a very great development of this industry since 1901. 110 additional mills were returned as working in 1906, and hands employed increased from 6,812, to 9,111 and the (first cut) sawn timber from 261,583,518 ft. to 336,470,930 ft. an addition of 74,887,412 ft. The figures given for re sawing, &c, also show an increase from 34,824,246 ft. to 51,588,812 ft.; those for moulding from 9,152,598 ft. to 12,148,474 ft.; while the number of doors and sashes made increased from 91,376 to 143,100. The total money value of all manufactures or produce of the sawmills reached the sum of £2,128,766, as against £1,268,689 at the previous census; almost doubled in five years. The value of the plant largely increased. The plant is up-to-date everywhere.

The value of the output for the mills for

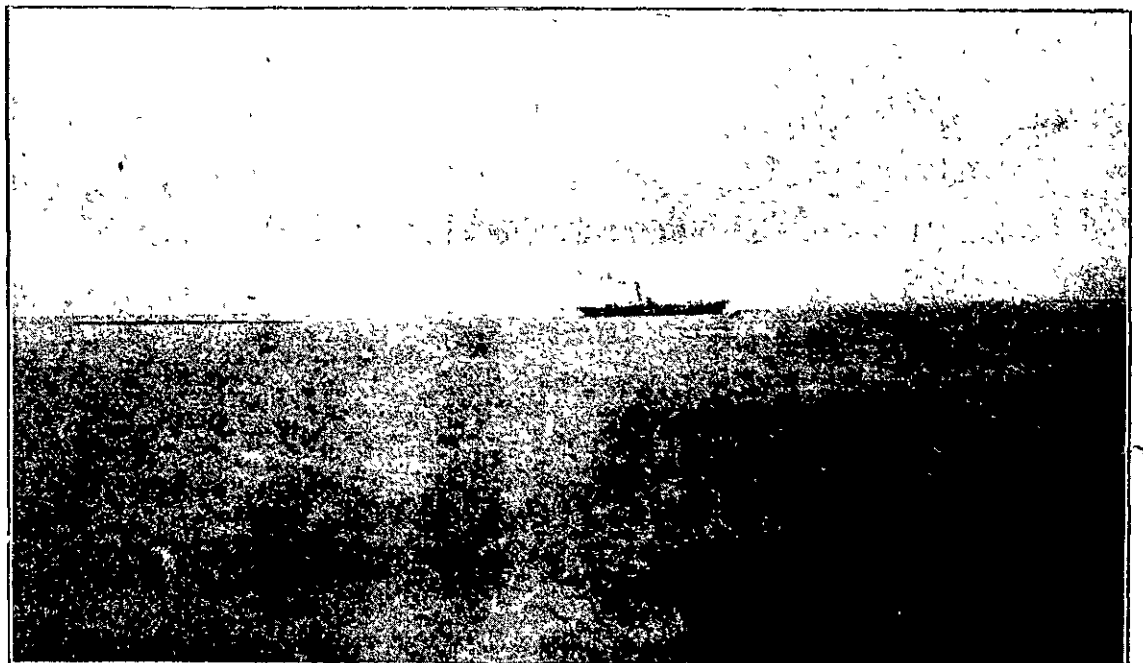
the year 1905 was far greater in the Auckland Provincial District than in any other, the order being as follows:—

Auckland	£1,078,233
Wellington	339,481
Otago	234,693
Hawke's Bay	138,668
Westland	117,104
Taranaki	97,401
Nelson	65,784
Canterbury	29,912
Marlborough	27,490
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	£2,128,766

Of this total there was exported a value of £318,895.

The total output of all the mills, of first and second cut, stands divided in the census returns (1906) as follows:—

Sawn timber	£1,442,950
Posts and rails	12,297
Skirting	517,954
Moulding	56,027
Sashes and doors	99,538
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Total	£2,128,766



S. S. "STELLA," WITH RAFT IN TOW.