

the neighbourhood of Monterey, a locality that is also the home of another well-known tree, the macrocarpa (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*).

The Monterey pine has now been introduced into nearly all those countries where it is hardy, but it is only in New Zealand, Australia, and South Africa that it has been utilized as a timber tree. Its employment in forestry is now being adopted to a limited extent in Ireland and parts of England, but its real value is not properly appreciated outside Australasia.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW ZEALAND

The value of *Pinus radiata* for the rapid production of shelter and its adaptability to all types of soils was early demonstrated in New Zealand, and this tree rapidly became popular in the formation of plantations. It was employed, both pure and mixed, with other species; but owing to its overpoweringly rapid growth it is not suitable for mixed planting, a fact not even yet properly recognized. The pine plantations were primarily intended for shelter and breakwind purposes, and the idea that this tree was capable of producing valuable timber

able trees that can be planted. Not only that, but its phenomenal rapidity of growth and great yield quite upset the general idea that small private plantations for timber production alone will not pay for their cost of planting and maintenance. In fact, it can be shown that *Pinus radiata* will return quite large profits when grown on land the rental value of which is considerably higher than that at which forestry has been thought to be a payable proposition.

Pinus radiata was first employed in housebuilding some thirty-seven years ago, when Mr. Cathcart Wason had some twenty-year-old trees converted into timber. With this material several houses and outbuildings were erected in the vicinity of Barr Hill, in Canterbury. These are still standing, and the timber, which has been kept painted, is still in an excellent state of preservation.

The advent of the travelling sawmill marked the commencement of the employment of pine timber for general constructional purposes. The farming community of Canterbury rapidly recognized the timber potentialities of their shelter plantations of



This house, the Residence of Mr. F. Sowden, Aylesbury, Canterbury, was built of *Pinus radiata* Timber grown on the Property.

was not seriously considered. At best the timber of the Monterey pine was looked upon as inferior firewood. Thus there sprang up a decided prejudice against any extensive planting. It was thought better to employ those kinds that were considered in other countries to be valuable for timber production. The estimation in which the timber of the Monterey pine was held can be well gauged by the fact that of the 20,000 acres planted by the Forestry Branch of the Lands and Survey Department there are roughly only 100 acres devoted to this tree. The main plantation of some 70 acres is over twenty miles from a railway line, and will be ready for conversion long before any other plantations in its vicinity, so that it could not have been planted with any idea that the trees would be worth converting.

PRESENT OPINION ON THE VALUE OF THE TIMBER

During the past few years a great deal of timber has been cut out of the pine plantations in Canterbury. The uses to which it has been put clearly indicate that *Pinus radiata* is among the most valu-

Pinus radiata. As soon as conversion became practicable by means of the portable mill the adoption of pine timber for general requirements soon became popular. Several of these travelling mills are now annually employed during the winter converting *Pinus radiata* into timber, and many buildings have been erected during the past ten years. At first the timber was used mainly for rough outbuildings, such as stables, wool-sheds, and other farm buildings. During the past few years, however, many excellent residences, where *Pinus radiata* has taken the place of matai and rimu for all purposes except flooring, have been erected in various parts of Canterbury. Again, during the past year over two million feet of timber has been disposed of in Christchurch for box-making purposes, and the demand for this class of timber is so great that within a very few years all the mature plantations in the neighbourhood of the city will have been milled.

The great argument against *Pinus radiata* timber is that it is not durable. This is certainly true where the timber is in contact with the ground or is exposed to the weather in an unpainted condition. The