

New Timber Mill for Marlborough Timber Company, of Christchurch

Under the title of "To Build Mill in New Zealand" the "Timberman," an American lumber journal, describes a new enterprise on the part of the above company as follows:

"To construct a mill and install equipment for the Marlborough Timber Co., of Christchurch, New Zealand, E. A. Wright, of Everett, Washington, a veteran mill builder of the Pacific Coast, sailed recently from San Francisco under contract to build the mill and operate it for a time until island labour can be trained to handle the machinery. The mill will be on the South coast of the South Island.

"A double circular rig from the Sumner Iron Works, Everett, Washington, with all other necessary equipment, had been landed in Wellington before Mr. Wright sailed. All the hardware and even roofing for the mill were bought on the Pacific Coast.

The mill will be one which, on the Pacific Coast, would have a daily capacity of 150,000 feet, but with the conditions to be met in New Zealand the output will probably be somewhat less, according to Mr. Wright. The mill will be the largest in New Zealand and will mean more economical production than has ever been accomplished there. A number of other timber operators are known to be awaiting its completion and operation before deciding on purchasing similar equipment.

"Headquarters of Reese Bros., controlling owners of the Marlborough Timber Co., are in Christchurch, a city of 60,000 people. The nearest post office to the new mill will be the village of Tutupura.

"Logging in the Southland, as the southern area of the South Island is called, is entirely by narrow gauge roads with light steam engines, because of lack of driving streams and the fact that many of the woods are too heavy to float.

"I'm sending a dozen peaveys with the other equipment," said Mr. Wright, in illustration of the primitive methods used in New Zealand. "When I was down there last year I saw that the logs were rolled by natives who pushed with their breasts. I asked why they didn't use peaveys and had to explain what a peavey is. I tried to make one in a blacksmith shop but couldn't find a suitable piece of steel."

"The time which will be necessary to complete the mill depends entirely upon the labour. A vast area is available for the Marlborough Timber Co. to cut over, according to Mr. Wright. The timber will be mostly rimu, matai, totara and kauri.

There was a young lady named Banker
Who slept while the ship lay at anchor;
She woke in dismay
When she heard the mate say,
"Now hoist up the top sheet and spanker."

—"Index."

New Building Regulations in Sydney

Some interesting remarks about the city building regulations of Sydney were made by Mr. Arthur Pritchard at the annual meeting of the Institute of Architects of N.S.W. recently, which could be profitably studied by our city fathers in New Zealand. Mr. Pritchard said:—"When, rather than continuing to wait for a new Building Act as we had been doing for the last twenty years, the late Minister for Works (the Hon. Arthur Griffith) agreed to my suggestion that the authority of Parliament should be obtained for the issue by the City Council of Regulations permitting and governing the use of reinforced concrete and steel framing construction in the City of Sydney, and the promised measure appeared in a short Bill, sandwiched, as an astute old Councillor remarked, between two doubtful clauses about Waterworks and Adult Franchise, I thought our work would be in vain, but the skilled Parliamentarian knew better, and eventually, backed by the assistance of the late Lord Mayor, the measure became law.

"Thanks to the Advisory Board and the able assistance given by the many societies and eminent professional men interested, these regulations have now been completed and issued by the City Council, and, as Chairman of the Board, I am proud of the fact that the whole of the work involved was done by all concerned gratuitously, as a service we were privileged to render as citizens to our City, and for which we have received the thanks of the Council.

"One of the results of these regulations, and possibly the most important from the Civic standpoint, is that, as I have previously stated, the available ground floor area of the City has been increased by nearly 10 per cent.—a fact which, if translated into land value, would run into millions of pounds.

"The urgent necessity that exists for the Government to extend on the same lines the power of the City Council, so that regulations governing all building operations may be issued and amended from time to time, as is done in London, New York, San Francisco, and other great cities, is obvious to all experts, and would be more generally recognised if the following and other similar instances of the necessity for such further and early action were more generally known.

"At present the authorities have no control over, nor can they insist on the use of, fire-resisting construction in buildings other than in those of the theatre class; yet every day in most of her fashionable tea-rooms, Sydney faces the certainty of, unless matters are altered, appalling disaster. The mere call of "Fire!" in these over-crowded resorts would result in the loss of many lives, while the actual event would be a holocaust worthy of Nero himself.

"These rooms, occupying, as they mostly do, the topmost, and what were formerly the least valuable, areas of buildings constructed generally, whatever their embellishments, on those economical shop-building lines which prompted their installation, have their chief access for the public by lifts, the stairways, in some cases, constructed of softwood