

Sawmilling Section.

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The latest news from Mr. W. T. Irvine is by letter from him from Sydney, dated March 1st, in which he states that he is hoping to leave for New Zealand by the Manuka on the 17th. Our sawmiller readers will be pleased to learn that Mr. Irvine is now much better, and is anxious to get back to New Zealand and back to harness. He mentions having met Messrs. Bush and Syme in Sydney on their return from London, and these gentlemen were to have left for New Zealand on the 2nd inst.

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At a recent meeting of the Council of the Forestry League it was definitely decided to appoint an organiser for the League and to carry out an active campaign to secure a larger membership and make the League the active and influential body that the importance of its aims should warrant. Provided the necessary finances can be arranged to cover the cost of salary and expenses, it has been decided to appoint Mr. Will Lawson as organiser, and we have no doubt that Mr. Lawson will do ample justice to the position, as his work in publicity and organisation in other directions is already well known. An appeal is being sent out by the League for a certain number of life members with a 12-guinea subscription, or for a sufficient number of people to guarantee, say, £10 or £20 each for twelve months in order to ensure the necessary finance of the organisation campaign, and we would urge our readers to give this matter their active support, for to our mind the need of a very strong Forestry League is imperative to create such a body of public opinion as will ensure the definite carrying out of the Forestry policy recently laid down by Sir Francis Bell and to assist the aims and objects of Captain Ellis, the Director of Forestry. Without a very strong body of public opinion behind it the Progressive Forestry Policy is quite apt to be put on one side by our politicians; but if it has sufficient public support then the Government should be able to place the Forestry Department and its policy on such a definite basis that it is not likely to be assailed or altered by any future Government. It is essential that forestry should be placed beyond the reach of political influence, and to this end the organisation campaign about to be launched by the Forestry League should do good work, and it should receive the active support of every person with an interest in the future of our country, and especially of sawmillers, the future of whose industry is so dependent upon the successful carrying out of the Forestry Policy in this country.

We were recently called upon by Messrs. B. Bannon and Captain Charles K. Rowles, who are representing Messrs. Spear and Jackson, the prominent English saw makers, and were pleased to hear from them that their visit to this country is the direct outcome of the general trade awakening of Great Britain. Captain Rowles (of Messrs. Price and Walker, one of the largest sawmilling firms in England) is on a special mission to visit the whole of the sawmilling districts in New Zealand and to meet every person possible connected with the industry in order that he should learn at first hand the exact requirements of this country in regard to saws, so that Messrs. Spear and Jackson may be able to produce an article which will give entire satisfaction to the users. We are told that the English manufacturer is now able to produce saws and planer and veneering knives at a cost that will land them in this country at a price very considerably below that now being charged for the American article. Captain Rowles has had experience in the sawmilling industry in Russia, Siberia, India, Siam, Australia and Canada, and is a practical sawmilling expert, having managed the milling interests of his firm in Russia in pre-war days, and he is anxious to place at the disposal of any sawmillers in this country his advice on any matters in which he can be of assistance. We feel sure that our sawmiller readers will be pleased to meet this gentleman, and to know that we have now in this country a representative of a British firm whose mission is to assist in bringing British trade methods quite up-to-date.

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The Statement of Forestry Policy laid down by the Commissioner of State Forests, Sir Francis Bell, to the delegates of the Dominion Federated Sawmillers' Association, which was commented on in our last issue, was recently distributed to members of the Forestry League with a circular asking for members' comment upon the Policy. At the last meeting of the Council of the Forestry League a considerable number of replies were read, and among these were very able letters from the Rev. J. H. Simmonds, of Wesley Training College, Auckland; A. Bathgate, Esq., of Dunedin; and W. Stewart, Esq., Government Surveyor, Kokakoriki, Taumarunui. There is no doubt that the wide publicity given to and the distribution of the Statement of Forestry Policy has stimulated wide interest in these matters, but in all the replies received by the Forestry League there appeared no new ground covered or suggestions made that had not already