

cutting of timber for miners' domestic fuel, etc., should be stopped by permitting cutting only in prescribed forest areas. The Royal Commissioners failed to see any reason why the mining industry should, more than any other industry, be subsidised at the expense of the State.

(9) Only timber to be used for strictly mining purposes can be cut under rights exercisable under the mining law, and this definition has remained clear-cut since 1877-1878. As for timber rights granted under the mining law it seems to the writer, that these were, until the year 1900, confined to timber to be used for mining purposes. In 1900 the uses of the timber were extended to cover any purposes. That the latter included mining purposes, and that timber cut for mining purposes under license was subject to royalties, seems clear from a Regulation of 1918 in which the Warden was empowered to impose a lower royalty rate on mining timber.

This provision was advantageous to miners using large quantities of timber, and where they held a granted timber right, in contrast to an exercisable timber right, they *ipso facto* held an exclusive right to a definite area of forest. (Once all the timber on a mining claim has been cut, the claim-holder is free under exercisable timber rights to take mining timber from broad acres of available forest, but his right is also held in common by other miners).

(10) Even the timber rights of the small miner under the mining law were seemingly not always inviolate, and the provision of 1893-1899 authorising mining registrars to issue monthly licenses to holders of miners' rights to cut timber "exclusively for mining purposes and domestic use" is frankly puzzling.

(11) One can realise that the management of the early goldfields should have been as fully as possible in the Warden's hands. Some of the goldfields are in timberless districts, and it may have been by way of mere bad luck for forestry that others of the goldfields are in heavily forested districts. The complete control of grant of timber rights by Wardens on the West Coast of the South Island from 1900 for over twenty years has left an aftermath of inequitable timber rights, which may persist in numbers for another half-century. However, the removal of the Wardens' powers in this respect in 1926 marked a milestone in the progress of forestry.

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## INSTITUTE OF FORESTERS OF AUSTRALIA.

The past year has seen the formation of an Institute of Foresters of Australia. The main objects of this new body are to encourage the study of the science and practice of forestry in all its branches, and to establish and maintain a high standard of qualifications in persons engaged in the forestry profession. The first number of the Institute's Journal, which is to be published biennially, is a welcome addition to scientific forestry and contains much of topical interest to New Zealand foresters.

We extend every good wish to our sister Institute in the Commonwealth.