

## MINISTERIAL MESSAGE

*Text of a message sent to the President, N.Z. Institute of Foresters, by the Hon. E. T. Tirikatene, Minister of Forests, on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting, Napier, 1958.*

The President,  
New Zealand Institute of Foresters,  
Wellington.

Dear Sir,

Quite recently, I was informed that your Institute was holding its annual conference and I am moved to write to convey my deep interest in your activities.

My assumption of this portfolio has given me jurisdiction over the Department that has control of the largest areas of indigenous and exotic forests in New Zealand and I am deeply conscious of my responsibilities to the community today and in the future.

I would very much like your Institute to know that primarily I am interested in the regeneration, protection and proper use, and efficient management of forests, especially our indigenous stands. Its greatest value to New Zealand is in its continued existence and regeneration.

I realise, of course, that the needs of the community must also be studied and that the citizens of New Zealand have some measure of right to the commercial and botanic usage of our forests, but I hope that from the study of and research with both our indigenous and exotic trees and plants, we will obtain the required knowledge of them to enable us to ensure a perpetual supply of each for future generations.

I am very conscious also of the fact that the present community can leave two legacies to posterity, one a generous proportion of the land with regenerated and with existing cover of trees, both exotic and indigenous, the other lands denuded of forest cover with its subsequent sure reward of eroded highlands and devastated valleys.

As Minister of Forests, I hope I can look to your Institute for assistance and guidance, not only in retaining and regenerating forests wherever it is practicable and reasonable so that posterity will have the advantage of growing assets rather than the legacy that we have now in many parts of this country of devastation and flood, but also in assisting me to rehabilitate the lands which are being eroded at an ever increasing rate at this very moment.

Wishing your conference every success.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) E. T. Tirikatene.

Wellington.  
2 May 1958.