

It has long been recognized that rate of growth and attainment of physical maturity are associated with population density. This may be more apparent on small islands, from which individuals cannot emigrate to seek better nutriment. Wynne-Edwards has used as an example of this effect the "striking instance [of] the miniature white-tailed deer (*Dama virginiana clavia*) native of some of the Florida Keys; a buck Key deer weighs only fifty pounds, compared with the normal average on the North American mainland of some 200 lb". Three points should be noted: That the North American "average" white-tail is a mix-up of some 30 sub-species; none of them average 200 lb; the case cited is equally well an example of Bergmann's Rule of increased size within a group of warm-blooded animals with increasing latitude, and not an example of different planes of nutrition.

As a briefer summary, my impressions of the book are that it is too long for the new ideas it expounds (601 text pages), and it contains too many recognizable errors of fact in my limited field for me to be entirely happy that other animals are being correctly reported. The theory is not adequately evaluated against established ideas, and without full treatment of physiological as well as social phenomena, it cannot be said to be unequivocally supported by the facts presented.

C.L.B.

COMPENDIUM OF AUSTRALIAN FOREST PRODUCTS STATISTICS 1935-36 TO 1961-62.

MONETARY STATISTICS OF AUSTRALIAN FOREST PRODUCTS 1935-36 TO 1962-63.

Published by Australian Department of National Development, Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra. 1963, 1964.

The publication of these comprehensive books on Australian forestry and forest products statistics supplies a great need felt by any of us who require to find even some simple fact on Australian forestry. Previously you may recall searching through some seven State Forest Annual Reports and other publications and even then you were unlikely to find figures of comparable measurement.

The initial great improvement came in the early fifties with the six-monthly publication of *Timber Supply Review* by the Forestry and Timber Bureau. This booklet, which has improved with every issue, gives a limited but very important number of tables showing, by six-monthly periods, State and Commonwealth totals for the production, trade and consumption of all major forest products. The issue showing figures up to June, 1964, was received in New Zealand in November of the same year. Such prompt publication as this makes the booklet very valuable for up-to-date knowledge of the forest products industry in Australia.

The *Compendium of Australian Forest Products Statistics 1935-36 to 1961-62* and its accompanying *Monetary Statistics of Australian Forest Products 1935-36 to 1962-63*, however, have some 150 tables providing in considerable detail the same and much more information. The tables are set out by major groups with a very informative introduction to each. The use of cubic feet as a unit

of measurement is another step which enables the reader to more easily compare and understand. D. Wilson, who compiled this book, should be congratulated on an excellent job.

It is a pity, therefore, that there is confusion in the different units of measurement used for roundwood — e.g., in several tables the term "Superficial Feet Round Volume True Measure" is used, requiring the reader to divide the figures by twelve to convert to cubic feet. The book could perhaps have given a better example of the use of consistent statistical measurement to the statistical compilers in local industry. It appears also that this compiler himself has slipped up in his table of conversion factors. On page 127 of the *Compendium*, under Logs, either the factor 0.7854 should read 1.273 or the word "multiplied" should read "divided".

But these criticisms are minor points. A New Zealand forester contemplating his country's ambitious export target of 150–230 million cubic feet by the end of the century will find much of interest and encouragement in the figures of this book. In Australia, with a population of 11 million, the use of woodpulp since 1937 has increased from 46,000 tons to over 400,000 tons to date, of which almost half is imported. Again paper consumption is almost a million tons, and production from Australian forests, which include just over 500,000 acres of exotic softwood plantation, meets half of this requirement.

There is a wealth of information in both of these publications which cover the forest products industry of Australia competently and comprehensively. Anyone who wants to talk on, write about, or even understand the Australian forest industry, must have them.

G.Y.

CORRIGENDUM

On page 8, Volume 9, No. 1, under the heading "Factual and Historical Background", paragraph 2, second sentence, it is stated that "the remaining volume available . . . is 1,800,000 cu. ft." This *should be* 1,800 million cu. ft.