

roducing the Minister of Conservation and his department, the Board and Forestry Corporation, and nomenclature for officers of both authorities, especially regional controlling officers who will have to become principal rural fire officers. Out would go references to the Forest Service and Conservators of Forests.

The amended Act would allow both organisations to work as independent fire authorities in the same way as a county or rural fire committee authority. Cooperative arrangements could be made with other fire authorities as well as each other. The latter will be essential as there will be areas where production and conservation land adjoins or is interwoven. It will be important to decide whether production forest fire safety margins are to take precedence in that situation.

The Forestry Corporation looks like becoming the strongest rural fire

authority in New Zealand in manpower, equipment and organisation concentrated on exotic forest stations and sawmills throughout the country. It would have the strength to assist other rural fire authorities in an emergency, just as the Forest Service has done in the past, but assistance would probably be charged for.

The Corporation may have to carefully assess needs and dangers within its own area before giving assistance to others because its responsibilities probably will be much more specific than the Forest Service's.

Accepting that all these suggestions are possibilities, a major area of uncertainty still exists — the administration of the Forest and Rural Fires Act.

The future of the Forest Service's sectoral services (research, advisory services, forest health, training, etc) has not yet been decided. If a stand-alone department is approved by Govern-

ment, the Minister of Forests will still presumably be in charge and the Act could be administered as at present.

If sectoral services become a division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Minister of Agriculture would be the link with Parliament. Another possibility is administration of the Act by the Forestry Corporation on a contract basis to Government through the Minister.

The Department of Conservation might also take the job but will, at first, be preoccupied building up a completely new organisation.

The Fire Service Commission is another possibility. It is responsible to the Minister of Internal Affairs, and has an extremely strong head office, regional and area command organisation.

A remaining uncertainty concerns regional emergencies and the prohibition of fires when the Director General of Forests and Conservator of Forests titles cease to exist.

## LETTERS

### 'PLANTATIONS' — NOT 'EXOTICS'

Sir,

In 1980 John Holloway wrote an editorial\* advocating dropping the word "exotic". He presented good reasons for using the term "plantation" instead.

Since 1984 I have tried in both speaking and writing to avoid the use of the word "exotic" and to replace it with the word "plantation". This was despite the fact that I was, during some of that time, leader of the "Exotic" Forest Management Research. In those two years I have found no occasions where the word "plantation" was not appropriate. Even more important, I am convinced that when talking to those outside our profession, or to fellow professionals overseas, "plantation" was a much more appropriate word than "exotic". Our expertise is in "plantation" management, not "exotic" management.

We do not talk about cows, wool or kiwifruit as being exotic anymore. Has not the time come to regard radiata pine and her sisters as no longer being aliens?

As we go more international it is most important that we remove the word "exotic" from our language and talk and write only about "plantations".

**Wink Sutton**  
**Tasman Forestry Ltd,**  
**Rotorua**

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### STOP PRESS

**The Minister of State Services has announced that the Government has decided to set up a separate Ministry of Forestry. This agency is to be responsible for forest policy advice to the Government, forestry advisory services, training and forest research. It would also control regulations governing quarantine and forest diseases, rural fires, timber preservation standards and timber grading.**

**The new head of the Department of Conservation has recently been announced and is to be Ken Piddington.**

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