

1992. The final date for submissions to be received was July 31, 1992, although a number were received subsequent to this date. Oral submissions were heard over the months of August and September, and special hearings took place in Owaka, Tuatapere, Invercargill and Greymouth. By the conclusion of this process 177 submissions had been received, 119 of which were oral. The submissions came from a wide cross-section of interests, including environmental groups, Maori interests, and private owners of indigenous forest. The submissions are currently being analysed by the Committee and officials to determine whether any amendments to the Bill are required before it is referred to the House of Representatives for a second reading.

## South Africa to follow NZ privatisation

David Reade

The South African Government owns 340,000 ha of plantations, made up mainly of pine species including good quality *Pinus radiata*. It is following in New Zealand's privatisation path and a Forestry Corporation will be created from next January.

An early task in the privatisation process is to put a value on its resource and the South African Government chose Auckland-based Groome Poyry to carry out a survey working through the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. Two consultants – John Groome and Bill Liley – spent several weeks there examining two sample plantations in detail, and their report is now with the South African Government.

John Groome comments: "As the present activities of the Government include processing and marketing as well as growing the forests the value arrived at could not be too high or too low. The former could result in stumpages having to increase in order for the new corporation to meet its purchase price servicing.

"The latter could encourage the new entity to become an advantaged processing player in the marketplace. No decision has yet been made as to whether the corporation will be simply a grower or not."

It is also not yet clear whether new control of the plantations will result in an export trade in logs and processed products. But Mr Groome points out that steaming time from the East Coast to Southern east Asia is less than from

## LETTERS

### Size, rate of growth and longitudinal stresses in eucalypt logs

Sir,

In Chapter III, Section 1, of his classic book on "Growth Habits of Eucalypts" Max Jacobs dealt with "Longitudinal Growth Stresses of Erect Stems". By cutting diametrical planks into narrow strips and measuring the changes from their in-plank lengths, he showed that in stems and logs of *E. delegatensis* (formerly *E. gigantea*) the outer wood was under tension and the inner wood under compression "with a systematic strain gradient across the diameter". When logs are sawn, there will therefore be unequal stresses on opposite faces or edges of the individual pieces of timber. These differences produce both spring in the log during sawing and deformations in the shape of the sawn material. Nowhere did Jacobs cite the age of his test logs. However, he stated that "the faster the growth, the worse the trouble" and suggested that "an ameliorating action is to grow the trees more slowly".

More than 30 years ago one of us (N.B.) noticed that in sawing logs of *E. saligna* and *E. pilularis* of similar age

Chile to Pacific Asia. Australia is also within range for good-quality softwood product, and the higher densities of *P. radiata* and *P. patula* from South Africa could result in timber from these species being competitive.

Against a new export competitor emerging is the fact that the mechanical wood-processing industry has a long way to go to become competitive, he says. It is dominated by frame saws and subject to run-of-the-bush log supplies. Log grading to supply specialised plants has yet to evolve.

Messrs Groome and Liley studied plantations in the George region of the Southern Cape which as well as *P. radiata* and *P. pinaster* included fine stands of native timber – yellowwood and stinkwood – and at Weza in Southern Natal, the latter being a fine example of a well-managed pine plantation.

In the private sector one large grouping concentrates on its pulp and paper activities and the other on supplying South African mines with timber with 3 million m<sup>3</sup> going underground every year.

– Reprinted from Export News

from trees grown on the same site the large-diameter logs from the outer trees produced more stable timber than logs from the closer-spaced and more slender trees within the stand. In his M.R. Jacobs Oration to the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Forestry Conference in 1991 Harry Bunn stated that in his experience with eucalypts "tree size was of greater importance than rate of growth in determining how the log would behave during sawing".

These observations conflict with Jacobs' emphasis on rate of growth as a cause of trouble, but in fact they accord with his data. He reported that in his extensive tests "it was found that the amount of shortening of the strips cut from the outside of logs of various sizes is more or less constant". Although he did not comment on it, Jacobs' cross-sectional diagrams show that there was similar broad constancy in the lengthening of strips cut from the centre of logs of varying diameter. If these extremes remain more or less constant irrespective of diameter, it must mean that the radial gradient between them becomes less steep with increase in log size, and thus the stresses within pieces of sawn timber should decrease as log diameter increases. This conclusion is supported by Jacobs' figures for the curvature (i.e. stress) in peripheral strips from logs ranging from three to 24 inches in diameter, which showed a steady decline with increasing diameter. He also remarked that "the smaller the log, the greater the spring".

Without figures on the age of his test material Jacobs' data do nothing to support his statement that fast growth worsens the stress problems in handling eucalypt logs, but they help to explain how these problems are reduced as log diameter increases.

Neil Barr  
R.G. Miller

### Foresters gazetted

Sir,

I was glad to receive the latest Forestry magazine as part of my re-entry into the New Zealand Institute folds.

I am currently engaged as the Project General Manager for the NZ-PNG Reforestation Projects here in Papua New Guinea.

I do from time to time spare a brief thought for those of you lesser mortals who enjoy the 10°-20° temperatures and brisk!! winds as we up here suffer with 30° plus temperatures and zephyr-like breeze conditions, in our tropical paradise!!

From time to time gems of wisdom

emanate from the scribes within these hallowed (actually hollowed by borer) walls of mine host, the Department of Forests.

The gem below shows how we production foresters have suffered in recent times. This typist error has added a new dimension to promotional opportunities for those of us still in the business.

The page is from a report covering a recent study tour to South East Asia by a group of P.N.G. foresters.

#### **"9.8 FOREST CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT"**

##### **9.8.1 Forest Conservation and Protection**

*The aim of the sustainable forest management, which includes the designation of the Permanent Forest Estate is to assure substantial natural forest cover to maintain the quality and stability of the environment which are essential for the conservation of soil and water resources.*

**Most of the production foresters have been gazetted as Permanent Forest Reserves."**

Notable Kiwi foresters encountered during our study tour were: Peter Clark and Theo Vos at Malaybalay in Mindanao, Philippines; Rob Miller – at Pt Inti Indorayan Utuma – Nth Sumatra; Warren Ellis – General Manager of the Pt Inti Indorayan Utuma operation. The Nursery looks more like Grand Central Station. It produces 30 million seedlings a year.

I look forward to receiving more copies of the magazine.

**R.H. (Snow) Kimpton**

## **Snow damage**

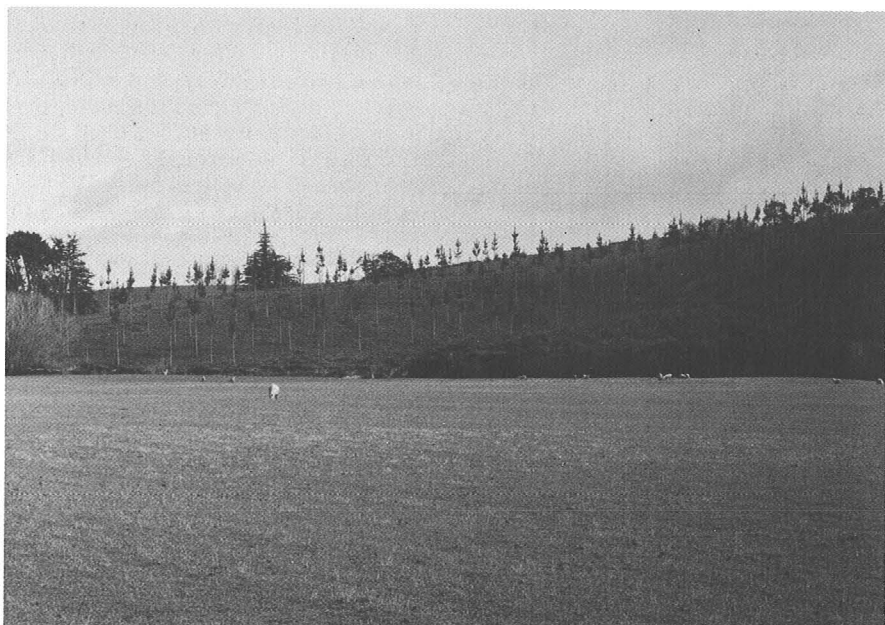
Sir,

With the big winter chill now well behind us it seems a little out of place to revisit those dreadfully cold months, but the legacy of damaged woodlots they left behind are going to remind us, whether we like it or not.

A visit to Canterbury shortly after just one of the several snowstorms which struck that region this winter reminded me of the review we did in Otago and Southland following the big snowstorms in 1983 (NZ Forestry, Vol. 31 No. 2, August 1986). At that time, extensive areas of radiata pine which had been planted at altitudes believed to be quite safe were affected by the snow in various ways. The most severely damaged areas were those which lay in the lee slopes near the tops of ridges, and I don't necessarily mean high-altitude ridges. Some were at decidedly low altitudes, but were so aligned as to become dumping grounds for the snow. Young trees which were growing on lee slopes carrying a heavy weed growth, particularly broom, were particularly badly hit by the snow. And untended stands seemed to be more



An untended stand on a north-east face wiped out by snow, leaving only bracken and broom, at Tapanui. Below, an adjacent thinned and pruned stand not damaged by snow, being grazed underneath.



heavily damaged than thinned and pruned stands.

Travelling through South Canterbury just after one of the recent snowstorms revealed a similar picture to the 1983 event. Interestingly enough, I was there to look at Douglas fir, and for a while I was rather dismayed to see that this species, which has a much superior reputation for withstanding snow in view of its natural distribution in snow-prone areas in North America, had also suffered some snow damage. Typical examples of the damage sustained by the Douglas fir were isolated tops snapped out of otherwise large trees, and this was in 40-year-old and older stands. But wherever radiata pine was nearby, there was ample evidence of even greater damage to this maritime species.

Which brings me to another justification for considering Douglas fir as a real alternative to radiata pine on some sites. We have all heard the economic argument against Douglas fir on the grounds of its long rotation length relative to radiata pine. Well, I wonder how the sums are looking now that the international price of Douglas fir has exceeded the expectations of even its most enthusiastic supporters, and prices are still rising. Suddenly the large areas in the South Island high country identified by Nick Ledgard and others from FRI are looking attractive as opportunities for long-term investment in a low-risk, high-demand species such as Douglas fir.

Neither this snowstorm, nor others in the future, will deter the radiata brigade from mis-siting their panacea in the

future. But hopefully, those who are prepared to think carefully about their proposed investment before acting will use the experiences to date to help them make an informed decision when planting trees on snow-prone sites.

**D.W. Guild**  
**Invercargill**

## Curt Gleason memorial

Sir,

It is proposed to establish a *Nothofagus* arboretum on the Curt Gleason Memorial, as part of the Reefton Visitor Centre development.

I am sourcing nursery specimens of those southern beeches which aren't native to New Zealand. Species of interest include:

Deciduous	Evergreen
<i>Nothofagus obliqua</i>	<i>N. cunninghamii</i>
<i>N. alpina</i>	<i>N. moorei</i>
<i>N. gunnii</i>	<i>N. betuloides</i>
<i>N. antarctica</i>	<i>N. nitida</i>
<i>N. pumilio</i>	<i>N. dombeyi</i>
<i>N. alessandri</i>	

I can be contacted at Tawhai Nursery, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 100, Reefton, West Coast, Ph. (03) 732-8391, Fax (03) 732-8616.

Any assistance your readers can give would be most helpful.

**S.M. Thompson**  
**Tawhai Nursery**

## New Editor

With this issue of New Zealand Forestry the journal has a new Editor. Chris Perley has taken over from Hamish Levack.

Chris holds the position of Senior Sector Analyst with the Ministry of Forestry in Dunedin.

He has a Bachelor of Forestry Science degree and a Diploma of Agricultural Science and is a member of the NZ Institute of Forestry.

After graduating in 1984 he worked with the Forest Service in Nelson and was stationed at Golden Downs, Hira and Rai Valley. He moved to Dunedin to join the Ministry of Forestry when the Forest Service was dissolved in 1987.

## Border Wars

*Lindsay Poole dug this epistle out of his old files. It is reportedly between Dave Kennedy, Conservator, Westland, and Priestley Thomson, Conservator, Canterbury (the traditional foe). It dates back to when the NZFS first took over Noxious Animal Control from Internal Affairs. Priestley and Dave sorted these matters out in the Bealey Pub!*

*If anyone has any similar gems, or historic anecdotes of interest to our readers, please blow the dust off them and send them to our journal. Ed.*

To The Foreign Minister,  
Conservancy 6,  
P.O. Box 513,  
CHRISTCHURCH

F.S. 90/0 DK.JKH  
P.O. Box 13, Hokitika  
20 November 1958

Sir,

The freedom loving and peaceful inhabitants of this Peoples Democracy, the Occidental Littoral, were recently numbed with shock to learn that butchering mercenaries from the warmongering capitalistic slavecamps to the east are regularly committing gross territorial violations of their Beloved Fatherland.

The simple hill-tribesmen of the Taipo, Taramakau and Ahaura provinces who eke out a subsistence livelihood from their flocks of *Cervus elaphus*, *Rupicapra*, *Hemitragus* and *Trichosurus* first reported the atrocities to their local Peoples Councils. Early reports indicated that an eruption of yeti was ravaging the countryside, killing all forms of life in their path with savage ferocity, and mutilating the victims.

These reports were difficult to confirm because of the ingrained taciturnity of the hill tribes, and because in their occasional forays on the lowlands they travel with their jaguars, making them difficult of approach.

A careful watch and systematic study of the way these sub-human marauders mutilate their quarry has since been undertaken by District Commissars in the threatened areas. It is now established that yeti are not responsible; it is a far worse scourge, provisionally identified at our Bureau for the Study of Anthropological Sciences as a *Huntera indocilis* var *Lawsoniana*, its chief characteristic being inability to recognise its home range.

The Peoples Democracy is shocked beyond belief at these unprovoked acts of piracy on the high lands. Ugly mob scenes are becoming commonplace in the bazaars, and a foreigner who claimed to be an east coast timber merchant was roughly handled in a student demonstration. A large contingent left over a week ago to demand the cessation of these raids; early reports say that they invested one of the national shrines known as Riccarton, but the few survivors who drifted back told awesome tales of the treatment received at the hands of these semicivilised orientals.

The Peoples Democracy is united as one man in this matter, and it warns the intransigents on its borders that further unprovoked acts of aggression will lead to war. Already there is talk of economic sanctions, though as a kindhearted people we are loath to see a whole community left without the bare necessities of life such as Rimu Dressing A and whitebait. But let forbearance not be mistaken for weakness. If they seek a token war, or even a war for the tokens, we will loose such a flood of retribution on their parched and poverty-stricken taigas as has not been seen since the day of Ghenghis Khan.

The People have spoken: further incursions of your agents-provocateur come over the border at their peril.

With kindest regards to the wife and kids,

(sgd) A.G. Nasser  
for Secretary of State for War.