The increased cut of private timber is due to kahikatea timber being in great demand a few years ago, and to the commencement of milling on private lands in mid and south Westland, where practically no State forests have so far been opened to milling.

The percentage cut under (a) and (b) fell from 63.6 in 1922 to 19.9 in 1939 while that cut under (d) rose from 6.9 to 52.8.

PREPARATION OF THE FOREST FLOOR FOR SEED RECEPTION.

With the object of creating a stand of beech pole forest for the partial future supply of mining timber for Reefton district, an area of 1200 acres in P.S.F. 132 was demarcated and silvicultural treatment commenced in 1936.

The forest is a beech taxad association with a lower storey of secondary species common to this type of forest in districts of abundant rainfall. Nothofagus fusca, largely overmature, is the principal species N. truncata, N. menziesii and taxads rimu, miro and kahikatea being present in small clumps or as individual trees. Regeneration was poor owing to a thick layer of "duff" and debris on the forest floor. Treatment consisted of underscrubbing and felling of all undesirable species up to 6 inches diameter, and the ring-barking of larger diameter useless species and overmature beech, leaving as seed trees a light stand of healthy well-formed beech.

From previous observations it was known that where duff is present on the forest floor seedlings fail to reach the mineral soil and die off completely in the early summer. Seed trenches were therefore prepared over a trial area of several acres by grubbing away surface litter and duff, and exposing the mineral soil in preparation for an indicated good seed year in 1936. The success of this trial was such as to warrant its continuationon a larger scale (see photograph opposite), by a less expensive method. Some 87 acres was therefore treated in the summer of 1938-1939 by the preparation of small patches of ground, 2 feet to 3 feet in diameter at approximately 6 feet spacing, at a cost of £2 per acre.

Regular spacing could not of course be obtained, nor was it necessary to cover the whole of the area, as patches of sapling stand of the desired species already exist. Though the seed fall was much lighter than anticipated, and the strike obtained from patch preparation of the forest floor much less than in actual trenches, indications are that more than a full stocking of the forest is assured by the cheaper means of soil preparation.

J. F. FIELD.