calculated productive value exceeded the prairie value, and this can
easily happen where the prairie value tends to a nominal minimum
and where fire protection, silviculture and other forest maintenance
is kept down almost to zero. Insistence on a reasonable measure of
forest management should be a pre-requisite to the introduction of
land valuing by forest valuation methods.

One's sympathy always goes out to forest owners who have
suffered fire losses, but relief from taxation on capital fire protection
expenditure, fire losses and salvage fellings should be conditional upon
maintenance of such an efficient fire prevention organisation by the
owner that fire damage could not be contributed to by his negligence.

All foresters and forest owners will hope that this book will soon
become out of date as further tax concessions are authorised; and
perhaps the author himself is content that it is already a little out of
date, for he has written that what is required is not any fundamental
reform in the present taxation system, but only certain modifications.
That these will foreshadow some measure of State supervision over
private forests probably goes without saying. This probability
coupled with the fact that this bulletin is the first publication on the
subject to appear here for about a quarter of a century, and moreover
its excellent account of forest taxation in Europe—all make the book
deserving of close study.

F.W.F.

Third World Forestry Congress: Report of the New Zealand Delega-

The New Zealand delegation which attended the Third World
Forestry Congress held at Helsinki, Finland, from 10th July to 20th
July, 1949, consisted of:—

Mr. T. T. C. Birch, New Zealand Forest Service.
Mr. K. C. A. Carter, Vice-President, Dominion Federated Saw-
millers Association.
Mr. J. Freeman, Vice-President, New Zealand Timber Workers
Union.

This composition enabled it to cover all sections of the agenda.

The report of the delegation to Parliament runs to 109 pages
but only 20 of them deal with the organisation and proceedings of the
Congress, the remainder giving the results of individual investigations
made by the delegates on their way to and from Helsinki.

Chapter III consists of extracts from the general report of the
Congress, interpolated with the views of the New Zealand delegation
which are, in general, factual and restrained. In his letter of trans-
mittal to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Forests states that the
recommendations are applicable more to those countries which have
neglected forestry legislation and activities. Certainly many of the resolutions contain generalisations that will not be questioned by foresters of experience. But few countries can afford to be complacent about their rate of forestry progress and this report admits that much remains to be done in New Zealand, quoting as an example inadequacy of forest research. It is doubtful, however, if all will agree that "the urgent need for research has always been recognised by the New Zealand Forest Service, and prosecuted to the limit of funds and personnel available."

The Congress affirmed that legislation, research and education should constitute essentials in the formulation of forest policy. There appears to be some confusion in the delegation's remark that "New Zealand has had a basically sound forest policy since the passing of the Forests Act 1921-22 and it has been more or less under constant review ever since, culminating in its revision and consolidation in 1949." Improvement of mere legal machinery does not necessarily constitute an advance in forest policy—a retrograde policy would be quite possible under the present Forests Act.

The following points stressed by the Congress are of more than average interest:

The evolution of vegetative associations should constitute the chief stem of research in all countries.

The importance of forest cover in soil and water conservation and the failure of engineering works alone to control satisfactorily streams that are subject to alternate floods and minimum flow.

The importance of considering the economic and social welfare of forest workers, with special reference to the need for continuity of production to ensure stability of employment.

The importance of good fiscal practice in the interests of good silviculture—it is relevant in New Zealand to the question of taxation of privately-owned plantations.

FAO played a considerable part in the organisation and conduct of the Congress. It is unnecessary to dilate on the comment in the report under review that "FAO forestry representatives at the Congress were not free from criticism by delegates, who sensed a degree of detachment from realities in their formal pronouncements and a desire to expand their activities beyond the capacity of such an organisation to achieve practical value."

The Congress recorded "that one of the most striking changes of the past 13 years is the recognition of the principle that the management and conservation of forests and the manufacture and distribution of forest products must be regarded as an inseparable whole." A concise approach to such an integrated conception of silviculture, wood-using industry, and social welfare is to be found in a study of this report, conveying as it does united world opinion on all the major aspects of forestry.
Part II is a survey by Mr. Birch of European forestry education and research institutions. Comprehensive statements are given of the aims and organisation of forestry schools and research centres in Germany, France, Switzerland, Italy, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Britain. The chief conclusions arrived at by Mr. Birch are:

1. The principle of academic freedom is recognised in European higher forestry education.

2. The reputation of a school of forestry depends on the standing and numerical strength of its staff, i.e. quantity and quality are equally important.

   Both the foregoing conclusions are pertinent to the establishment of a forestry school in New Zealand.

3. The divorcement of forest research institutes from State departmental control is characteristic of the forest organisations of all Scandinavian countries. Mr. Birch does not consider this possible as yet in New Zealand but advocates insulation from undue departmental influence by the setting up of a Forestry Research Advisory Committee as permitted by the 1949 Forests Act.

Part III contains results of Mr. Carter’s investigation into milling developments in Scandinavia and British Columbia, and export marketing from the former area. He concludes that, if a sufficiency of milling life is available, log gang saws are the most economic for sawing exotics in this country, but in other circumstances circular log edgers with following resaws are advocated. Attention is paid to the relative merits of through and through sawing with a single gang as against the Scandinavian practice of cant sawing on the log gang and following with a cant frame. The report clearly brings out the extent to which manpower can be saved in sawmills by full mechanisation. It should be of considerable interest to millers sawing exotics.

In Part IV Mr. Freeman discursively reports his investigations of industrial relations in Scandinavia. He found a widespread recognition of the importance of harmonious industrial relations, adequate housing and social security, even though the living standards of the workers in Sweden were considered to be below those of New Zealand. It is claimed that the Moral Re-armament movement is having an appreciable influence in promoting unity between management and labour.

H.V.H.