
In the foreword the Prime Minister writes, "The atlas presents within its covers a wealth of information about New Zealand not previously available in any convenient form, if at all. It incorporates details of New Zealand’s geography and geology with appropriate history, and a great deal of our economy and sociology. It is, in a sense, an analysis and assessment of New Zealand’s resources. As a national atlas, it compares favourably with any similar overseas publication and will be of the greatest educational value both to New Zealanders and to readers abroad." With this any reviewer must agree; for the atlas is impressive in conception and execution.

The text, over 100,000 words, is made up of contributions by experts in geology, climatology, vegetation, fauna, soils and land use, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining, commerce, and other fields; no important facet has been omitted. The many oblique aerial photographs, all full-page size, portray in admirable manner our diverse national landscape and principal cities. The 48 coloured maps are superb; those depicting topography, geology, soils, pre-European vegetation, population, land classification, land utilisation, and manufacturing are of scale 1 : 3,200,000; in addition there are 14 maps of scale 1 : 1,000,000 which give geographical detail.

For the reviewer to pass comment on all the sections of the atlas would be mere impertinence, for no man could possibly possess a competent knowledge of them all. But there are parts which invoke a surge of interest in the forester, and a few general comments on these may not be out of place. It is of course impossible to condense to the degree necessary for the atlas without over-simplifying, and it will be readily understood that in such pithy accounts that which is known tends to be emphasised and that which is not known to be ignored. This notwithstanding there are six sections which afford valuable background to all involved in forestry in this country. G. C. Shaw describes the geology and geomorphology in most readable fashion; the accompanying geological map differs a little from the 1 : 2,000,000 map published in 1958 by the Geological Survey. In the section on pre-European vegetation J. T. Holloway emphasises that when Polynesian man arrived in New Zealand the vegetation was not static but in a considerable state of flux due to volcanic and climatic factors; the accompanying map shows, of necessity, very broad classes of vegetation. R. A. Falla writes most interestingly of the New Zealand fauna, but it is unfortunate that more detail was not given to the introduced species and the considerable impact they have had on our flora and, indeed, on our landscape. The section on soils and land use was contributed by N. H. Taylor, I. J. Pohlen, and R. H. Scott, and the related land classification by the same authors and A.
D. McKinnon. The soil, land-classification and land-utilisation maps are of especial interest to the forester and overlay map comparison reveals many interesting correlations. Unfortunately the land-utilisation maps do not show many of the exotic plantations, no doubt often a cartographic impossibility because of the small scale, but it is disappointing to find the Tapanui district plantations and even Balmoral Forest omitted. Again, the small map scale has demanded land classes that are so broad as to be rather vague in some cases. For instance, the potential land use of class E3 (steep and mountainous lands with cold to cool humid climate) is given as "In parts, sheep farming for production of fine wool. Protective forestry needed in many places. Some remnants of beech forest with protection value". What really interests the forester is whether the potential land use is production of fine wool or protective forestry. However, it is gratifying to see that the role of farm forestry for local-supply woodlots has been recognised even on market-garden soils. A. L. Poole gives a comprehensive appreciation of the national forest estate and the forest-products industry.

From the point of view of the forester, then, the atlas gives a broad general background rather than locally precise information. But from the point of view of the citizen it provides a wealth of information about our country in readable and attractive manner and will prove invaluable in home, school, and office. Perhaps a plea could be made for the inclusion in subsequent editions of a selected short bibliography which would give the main authoritative references for each section and thus enable the reader to follow up any aspect that interested him.

—P.J. McK.

THE NATURAL REGENERATION OF EUCALYPTUS REGNANS. By T. M. Cunningham, Ph.D., B. For., 140 p., tabs., 11 pl., Melbourne 1960. Price £1.5s.0d. (Bulletin No. 1 of the School of Forestry, University of Melbourne.)

This bulletin, based on the author's Ph.D. thesis, is the first number of a new series planned as a medium for publishing the results of research projects conducted at the University of Melbourne School of Forestry. This timely action by the University is most welcome, as the literature cited by the author reveals that the School archives contain unpublished data that would interest research workers elsewhere. Reference is made to several unpublished reports and theses dealing with the problems of regenerating ash-type eucalypt forests, basic work which Dr. Cunningham's research on E. regnans consolidates and expands. The results of fundamental studies of this nature provide a sound basis for examining the shortcomings of current management practice and suggest ways in which the difficulties may be surmounted.

The introductory chapters are commendably brief, describing the