high percentage of trees can be expected from slips taken from second year nursery stock of this species.

(2) The root system of such trees is good and quite as regular as that of trees grown from seed.

(3) The death rate after planting of insignis pine grown from slips is certainly no higher than that of trees grown from seed and planted under similar conditions.

(4) Up to 4 years after planting the trees are quite as healthy as trees grown from seed and planted in close proximity.

(5) Rate of growth up to 4 years is at least equal to that of trees grown from seed and planted in close proximity.

A FOREST WORKING PLAN IN OPERATION.

(A. N. Perham.)

Under the Wellington City and Suburban Water Supply Act (1927) an area of some 74,000 acres mostly forest clad, was vested in the Wellington City Corporation and provision was made for the preparation of a Forest Working Plan, with the following objects in view:—

(1) Conservation of water supply for the City of Wellington and suburban boroughs.

(2) Forest management.

(3) Recreational facilities for the inhabitants of Wellington City and surrounding districts.

The Act stipulated that the Working Plan be prepared for periods of not less than five or more than ten years, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of State Forests. Provision was made in the Act for the development of all phases of forestry except the actual conversion of forest produce to sawn timber. Upon being appointed Forestry Officer in August, 1928, the writer was required to prepare the Working Plan; and approval having been obtained, was able to put the Plan into effective operation within one year of the date of appointment.

The vested areas, situated in the watersheds of the Hutt and Orongorongo rivers, together with a further area of 4,050 acres purchased subsequently to the passing of the Act, amounted to approximately 78,000 acres, and were composed of 68,000 acres of indigenous forest and 10,000 acres of open and scrub covered land.
The diversity of forest types, topography, accessibility and possibilities of development necessitated the grouping of the various areas into four working units of 20,524 acres, 19,914 acres, 22,021 acres and 15,300 acres, named the Akatarawa, Hutt, Pakuratahi, and Orongorongo blocks respectively.

Of the 10,000 acres of more or less open land, approximately 6,000 acres in the Pakuratahi block and 650 acres in the Akatarawa block were considered suitable for afforestation in exotic species and the plan prescribed the annual planting of 133 acres to be completed in 50 years. After that, if the rotation proved to be correct, the area was to be worked on a sustained yield basis.

Some 12,000 acres of indigenous forest in the Akatarawa block, containing an estimated volume of 92 million super. feet of commercially exploitable timber, was set aside for milling under management directed toward a sustained yield. As regeneration of the native timber species was considered not an economic proposition, the plan provided for the interplanting of each year’s cutover area with a mixture of tolerant exotic conifers. A fifty year rotation for these species was anticipated, and the annual cut of the present native timber was fixed at one-fiftieth of the present estimated volume.

The remaining 56,000 acres of forest land, containing types representative of all those found in the locality, were set aside as a permanent reserve. The whole of the vested areas and such marginal land required to give reasonable safety and suitable boundaries were included in a Fire District, with an annual appropriation of not less than £350 for fire prevention and suppression.

The estimated costs of various work are set out in schedule form and a duplicate form of work completed, receipts and expenditure is deposited with the Commissioner of State Forests.