

The now famous stand of Sitka spruce was seen in Compartment 16f and members were able to compare the 40 year old specimens seen in the shallow well-drained basin with the 20 year old plot seen during the 1951 Institute tour of Karioi Forest, where unseasonable frosts had kept total height growth down to 30 inches. The best of the Conical Hills trees had heights of well over 100 feet and diameters up to 28 inches but members would have been more impressed had there been more than a few square chains of that quality out of the sub-compartment area of 13 acres. After lunch at Tapanui the party visited the new Conical Hills saw-mill where *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus ponderosa* from Pukerau Forest were being sawn. The layout is similar to that of Waipa Mill. Ponderosa pine thinnings being milled were seen to yield only fair timber with a large number of green knots. The next visit was to the compartment in Pukerau Forest where this timber was being logged—a 1916 stand of 6 x 6 feet spacing which the thinning was reducing to 270 stems per acre. Some fears were felt that this might be too severe a thinning for a rather exposed site but the "heavy thinning" school considered the risk justified. An adjacent area of 1916 *Pinus radiata* clear felling started in August 1950 to provide the main input to the Conical Hills mill. North Island members were interested to hear whether regeneration could be expected on pumice country standards. Plot counts showed a stocking of 2000 seedlings one year after felling which mortality had reduced to 1200 per acre by May 1952. It seemed that 60 per cent of the area would be satisfactorily stocked and that planting would be necessary over the remainder. The final inspection was of the current fellings on rolling country which presented no difficulty to extraction with tractors and logging arches. The average yield to a 6 inch top for the compartment lay between 9,000-10,000 cubic feet per acre.

The variety of species and the comparatively intensive tending and utilisation practice in the Tapanui District were a refreshing change to members from the more silviculturally backward parts of the Dominion.

### Rotorua Section

The Rotorua Section of the Institute had another active and successful year. Membership rose to 63, maintaining the annual increment of the past few years.

At the eighth Annual Meeting on 6th June, H. V. Hinds was elected Chairman, J. Ure Secretary, and F. Allsop, R. S. Macarthur and M. M. McKee to the Programme Committee.

Addresses given during the year were :

"The recent epidemic of the looper *Selidosema suavis* in Canterbury," by

Mr. G. B. Rawlings.

"Some impressions of American forestry," by Mr. W. S. Anderson.

"The formation of heartwood in *Pinus radiata*," by Mr. J. M. Harris.

"The genus *Eucalyptus* in New Zealand," by Mr. J. E. Henry.

"The forester in private practice," by Mr. C. D. Shultz.

All meetings were well attended. Mr. Schultz had the distinction of addressing an audience of 50 members and visitors, the largest ever recorded by the local section.

By permission of the Conservator of Forests, Rotorua, a field day was held in the Wairapukao area of Kaingaroa Forest which was attended by some 30 members. Spacing trials (1940) in *Pinus radiata*, results of 1948 drill sowing of *P. radiata* and provenance trials (1929) of *Pinus ponderosa* were the chief subjects of inspection and discussion.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Receipt of the following publications during 1952 is acknowledged by the New Zealand Institute of Foresters.

*Institute members are reminded that forestry literature received by the Institute and listed in the Journal annually is available on application to Mr. G. C. Weston, Forest Research Institute, Private Bag, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua.*