

research is conducted piecemeal by a relatively few research officers dispersed through several departments of central government and many agencies of local government. Can this piecemeal attack be successful, even with top-level co-ordination? This is contrary to all experience. Vigorous action, which is what is required, will follow firm allocation of responsibility, but otherwise cannot be anticipated. Full responsibility for research in connection with the lowland grasslands rests on the Grasslands Division, D.S.I.R. Full responsibility for forest research rests on the Forest Service. Do the tussock grasslands differ so greatly from the lowland grasslands and from the forests that a totally different set of principles apply?

This matter must be one of considerable concern to many foresters. The most potent threat to great areas of critically important protection forest lies in the damage that has been done to the tussock grasslands that extend above the timberline. No forests can withstand the mass movement of erosion detritus from above. Direct damage to the forests, wrought by browsing animals, is stepped up with destruction or impoverishment of browse resources on surrounding lands. Badly damaged tussock grasslands are returned to the forester for remedial action. No forester can safely disregard anything that happens on the lands above and around his forests. The matter of tussock grassland research is, therefore, a matter of legitimate interest to foresters. If action is only possible following development of an enlightened public interest in the tussock grasslands, foresters could well play an important part in awakening this interest.

Macrae Memorial. At the last Annual General Meeting the proposal was put forward that the Institute should erect a plaque at Kaingaroa Forest to honour the memory of the late Roderick Macrae, Honorary Member of the Institute and Paul Bunyan of afforestation in New Zealand. The appeal for contributions has so far met with a poor response. There must be many of the older members who knew Macrae as a great man and a great forester, and who would wish to share in this tribute to him. They are asked to send in donations to the Treasurer, Mr. A. C. Forbes, as soon as possible.

OBITUARY

R. G. LAWRENCE

We regret to record the death of an associate member of long standing, Mr. R. G. Lawrence. Reg. Lawrence worked with the Forest Service for 27 years and was successively in charge of nursery operations at Golden Downs, Ashley Forest, the Forest Vocational School at Tapanui, and the Hawkes Bay ranger district. He was a good practical forester, and was endowed with green fingers and sound silvicultural sense. A kindly and popular man, he will be missed by the many who knew him well enough to appreciate his sterling qualities.

A. P. Thomson.