

TEN CURRENT ISSUES

What do you think?

Where do you stand?

Check which of the following answers fits your views best.

1. Current moves in the NZ plantation scene:

- A. Spell disaster – see comment by Poole page 2.
- B. A positive future for forestry – see comment by Allen and Walker page 4.

2. The State's plantations are worth:

- A. Roughly a billion dollars – one estimate by A. Gibbs – see Grant (NZ Forestry 32/1)
- B. About 7 billion dollars – the top estimate by BERL – see Allen and Walker page 4.
- C. Between the above two (there has to be three options in an exercise like this!) e.g. letter by Mountfort, page 14.

3. Many countries provide incentives for establishing plantations; New Zealand has taxation disincentives:

- A. This Douglas policy is reasonable.
- B. Thatcher's or Pinochet's policies (to name a couple) are reasonable.

4. The Tasman Forestry Ltd accord with conservationists – see page 9 – is:

- A. A sign of the times.
- B. An exciting development.

5. Controls over private indigenous forest exploitation are being proposed – see comment by Guild and also page 10. They are:

- A. Badly needed.
- B. An infringement of private property rights.

6. The cancellation of the Institute of Forestry Inc. A.G.M. at Waitangi this year was:

- A. Expected – there's too much talk on Maori issues.
- B. Unexpected – Maori land issues require more discussion and awareness.
- C. Too busy for Conferences.

7. Foresters get majority of top jobs in the Department of Conservation reshuffle – see page 11. This indicates:

- A. Just another bureaucratic mistake.
- B. Professional forestry training and performance made them logical choices.

8. Ministry of Forestry to manage Maori – lease plantations for the Crown – see page 10.

- A. What! Departments shouldn't manage plantations.
- B. (Smile) – it's logical.

9. University first-year student intake up; School of Forestry intermediate level at low ebb – see page 8.

- A. It's the School's problem (curriculum/location etc.).
- B. It's a victim of forestry restructuring and the sector's image.

10. The Minister of Forestry was reported in June as commenting that the countries he visited were much more mature than New Zealand in their approach to forest policy. They believed

in multiple, sustained and managed use of their forests:

- A. But these are forestry dogma and are unworkable.
- B. These are sensible policies which have been implemented.

Bonus question:

The 'optimum' final crop stocking for pruned radiata pine stands in the central North Island is:

- A. Closer to 200 than 300 stems/ha.
- B. Closer to 300 than 200 stems/ha.
- C. Don't know.

(For an answer to this question read your next issue of New Zealand Forestry.)

D.J. Mead,
Editor

Labour in the Woodpile

As long ago as the late 1920s, when students in New Zealand were struggling with their studies at two short-lived Forestry Schools in the University Colleges of Canterbury and Auckland, on the other side of the world the Nazis in Germany were plotting to use wood as the most important resource in their preparations for war. In their own intensively managed forests, covering more than a quarter of the land, they calculated that they had an extraordinary resource. Moreover, in the surrounding countries there were forests almost the equal of those of Germany in quality but far exceeding them in quantity. At the time of conquest, as a war proceeded, these could also be used; or maybe, even before conquest if trade could be manipulated so that wood finished up in Germany.

And so the Nazis, with consummate skill, laid their plans to use wood as the material for *ersatz* (substitute) industries. It could be converted to provide food and fodder, solid and liquid fuels, cellulose and textile fibres, wood-based chemicals and structural material. The plans came to fruition and wood did, indeed, provide key materials that kept the Germans at war. A detailed and racy description of the Nazi machinations is contained in a book called, 'Nazis in the Woodpile' by Egon Glesinger (1942). Bobbs – Merrill Co., New York.

While the Nazis were capitalising on Germany's and neighbouring countries' well-managed forests, Britain, on the other hand, was struggling desperately to get enough wood for the bare essentials of living and a minimum for war purposes. She was paying the penalty for decimating her natural forests long since and giving little attention to replacement or to nurturing the remnant forests. Being the largest importer of wood in the world before World War II, she had to struggle with all the might of her navy to maintain a vital minimum of imports. Lacking forest workers and sawmillers, except in small numbers, she also had to rely on Commonwealth recruited artisans from Canada, New Zealand and Australia to log and mill some of her remaining slender forest resources. Britain had found herself in the same predicament at the time of World War I and new planting after that war provided some of the wood felled during World War II.

At the time the Nazis were laying their plans and pursuing their strategies, New Zealand was planning and planting its first major exotic forests. During and immediately after World War II this development almost ceased but recommenced in the 1950s and 60s and carried on until the obliteration of the New Zealand Forest Service by the Labour Government in 1987. The country now