

# **TREE-CULTURE IN NEW ZEALAND**

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Tree-Culture in New Zealand by Henry J. Matthews

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**HENRY J. MATTHEWS**

**TREE-CULTURE IN  
NEW ZEALAND**





SPECIMEN OF KAHIKATEA OR WHITE-PINE (*PODOCARPUS DACRYDIODES*).

*Plate 1.*]

[*Frontispiece.*

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# TREE-CULTURE

IN

NEW ZEALAND.

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BY HENRY J. MATTHEWS, CHIEF FORESTER.

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## P R E F A C E .

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**T**HE continued development of the colony and the rapid extension of settlement has increased the demand for timber to such an extent that the question of forest-tree planting for future supplies has been forced upon the attention of the people, who are fully prepared to support systematic governmental action.

The functions of this Department have hitherto been confined to tree raising and planting, some five million forest-trees being raised and planted permanently per annum; and it has now been decided to assist settlers by supplying information in regard to all subjects connected with the raising and planting of trees, whether for ornament, shelter, or as a source of timber-supply for the future, and with this object in view the present volume has been compiled for the use of settlers. In preparing the work the author has endeavoured to present in a concise form a general outline of the subject of forestry as applicable to the colony, without attempting to be exhaustive. The tendency on the part of European writers has been to amplify and extend the subject to the exhaustion of the merest detail, necessitating the reading of much unimportant matter to find the points most required. Technical details have been avoided as far as possible, but scientific names have been mentioned chiefly because common names are often uncertain in their application.

Many works have been written on the subject, but most of these lack the simpler and special instructions which the Department's correspondence shows to be chiefly in demand, especially amongst farmers.

The science of forestry has made rapid strides within the last few years in Europe, America, and India, and although excellent literature on the subject exists it is chiefly, if not entirely, applicable to Continental methods, and is consequently only of slight value to the colonist, who has to deal with the altered conditions of our insular climate and soils. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in preparing for public information concise and explicit directions on the subject of tree-planting which shall be suitable for such variations of climate and soil as exist in the colony—semi-tropical in the north, moderate in Wellington, Marlborough, and Nelson, and semi-antarctic in the higher inland districts of Canterbury and Otago.

The best thanks of the Department are due to Messrs. T. W. Adams, of Greendale, Canterbury, and Alexander Bathgate, of Dunedin, for valuable suggestions and advice in the preparation of the work. Dr. Truby King has also kindly contributed a valuable paper on seaside planting.

The plates throughout the work have been reproduced from photographs taken by Mrs. H. J. Matthews.

If this book serves to convey practical information and to arouse interest in the subject of tree-planting throughout the colony its mission will have been fulfilled.

H. J. MATTHEWS.

*December, 1904.*



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