

# State guardian for NZ kauris

**WELLINGTON, Today, (NZPA).** — A new policy to perpetuate the kauri as a species in the interests of science and for public enjoyment was announced by the Government last night.

The Minister of Forests, Mr Moyle, said in a statement that kauris would be preserved both in natural stands, whether healthy or not, and as managed forests.

He told reporters the move was the first by the Government to preserve the kauri, a timber that had been grossly overexploited in the first century of New Zealand.

The policy basically called for phasing down the use of kauri as quickly as was conveniently possible to a point where significant stands of mature forests would be maintained.

## Conservation

Only the future would show how much kauri, if any, could be used for commercial purposes.

At present some 150,000 cubic feet of kauri was milled each year and about half of it went into boatbuilding. But none would be available in a few years if existing trends continued.

The Government plan called for conservation policies now and studies later to see how much kauri was available.

Meanwhile, boatbuilders and others could use other woods, fibreglass and laminations, where previously they might have used kauri.

## Less milling

Mr Moyle made it clear milling would not stop immediately, but would be reduced until possibly the stage was reached where none was being done.

The Government's policy aims to set aside further large representative areas of mature and immature kauri and kauri associations as forest sanctuaries and as areas dedicated for public enjoyment under the Forests Act.

These areas should cover a wide range from saplings to mature trees.

The policy will aim to manage the remaining kauri areas as healthy stands, with production of logs being incidental to achieving the prime object, which is perpetuation of the species.

Management will be achieved by tending areas of regeneration, by periodic pro-

ductive thinning of poor and immature stands and by selective felling of stands to promote regeneration.

## Action soon

Healthy trees will be felled in old growth stands only when it is desirable to promote better growth of the remaining trees, or to remove trees for the benefit of young kauris.

The policy calls for moves as quickly as possible to reduce the permissible annual cut to the lowest level, consistent with economic, social and legal constraints.

To the extent that they are available for acquisition, significant areas of kauri regeneration will be purchased by the Crown.

The Forest Service will reinstate a programme of artificial re-establishment on selected sites, particularly in forest parks and scenic reserves.

## Research too

Local bodies will be encouraged to plant kauris in reserves, while the service and universities will be encouraged to take up increased kauri research.

Mr Moyle said the policy was regarded as the best possible compromise.

It combined the placing of further substantial areas of kauri in sanctuaries, the deliberate managing of kauri to perpetuate it as a healthy species and a continuation of supply of a special purpose timber, albeit at a much reduced level.

Kauri was formerly widespread in stands in Northland, on Great Barrier Island, on the Coromandel Peninsula and to a lesser extent south to a line between Kawhia and Tauranga.

## Sanctuaries

Concentrated stands of any size are now limited to the Waipoua, Omahuta, Herekino and Puketia State forests, to the Mangiangina Scenic Reserve and to Trounson Kauri Park.

However, kauri is still very widely distributed. There are 14 State forests containing 100 acres or more of merchan-

table kauri and the total kauri in these forests covers about 7500 acres.

There are already 5265 acres of mature kauri set aside in sanctuaries and there are about 42,000 acres of regenerated kauri from seedlings to trees with a diameter of 12 inches or more.

## Beech defender

But another Government policy on trees has brought criticism from a conservationist.

The Government was being guided in its decisions about utilisation of South Island beech forests by a short-sighted and unimaginative environmental report, the chairman of the Action for Environment Organisation, Mr W. (Bill) Elmsley, said in a statement.

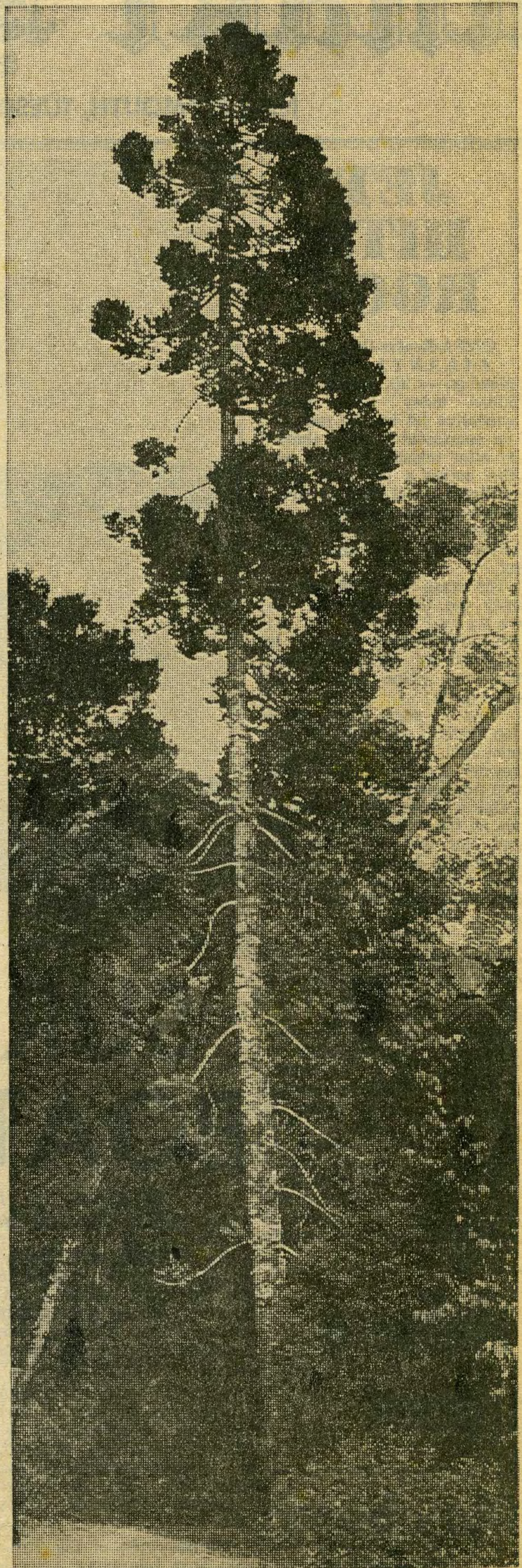
"The population of New Zealand in the year 2000 is expected to be around 5 million. Clearly, user pressure on our remaining recreational forests will have increased enormously by the year 2000, which is within the lifetimes of two of every three New Zealanders now living."

"More foreign exchange, or a few thousand tons of beechwood pulp for glossy packaging, won't be what's in short supply the year 2000," he said.

"What will be in short supply will be unutilised forest and mountain wilderness areas, where people can go to relax and get away from it all."

"The chief concession of the Government's advisers to any non-commercial enjoyment of the forests is to recommend the preservation of fringes of native forest along the State highways. This window-dressing won't cut much ice with trappers, hunters and fishermen, or with anyone who gets out of a speeding car to enjoy the peace and beauty of undisturbed forest."

As an alternative for the West Coast, he suggested establishment of a small polytechnic or craft school at Greymouth, which could form the basis for a number of skill-based small industries. These could include a quality wood products industry and a number of cottage industries.



A KAURI overlooking the fernery lawn in Pukekura Park, New Plymouth.