

ROTARY CUTTER SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED IN TERRITORY

LATE in 1953 a rotary cutter for clearing and maintenance work was successfully demonstrated in Port Moresby, Lae and Rabaul.

The active unit in the cutter is a set of rapidly rotating horizontal scythe blades adjustable for cutting height and mounted under a very effective protective housing. The cutter is tractor-drawn and p.t.o. driven, and the model demonstrated was for linkage with a 30 h.p. tractor.

At a Field Day held by the Department of Agriculture, Stock and Fisheries at Laloki, and attended by representatives of the planting industry and the Departments of Forests, Works, and Civil Aviation, the cutter successfully dealt with secondary bush and native grass growth, including seedling trees up to four inches in diameter. It was generally agreed that for all except the lightest work, such as airstrip maintenance, the cutter would need to be equipped with heavy duty blades for conditions in this Territory, also that for coconut plantation work a cow-catcher or similar device would be needed to prevent the destruction of ripe nuts on the ground. A feature of the work of the machine was the finely-chopped even deposit of vegetable matter left in its wake.

The machine described, a Woods Cutter, was demonstrated by Hastings Diesels Ltd.



View of the cutter at work in secondary growth being drawn by
30 h.p. International AW.6 tractor.



Finely chopped material left in the wake of the cutter after passing through the secondary growth.



Visitors at Laloki Field Day inspecting the work of the cutter.