



A rimu thrusting through the tawa subcanopy in the Oriuwaka Ecological Reserve.

The Arahaki lagoon in flood with its tall stands of pure kahikatea in the background.



this trend. They continued their investment undaunted, including re-equipment with machines to handle uniform sized exotic logs. Today's log supply agreement with the Government allows complete substitution of exotic logs at one month's notice without compensation. If this should happen, the Mill manager has made it clear the Mill will not close. Secure employment will be offered well into the 1990's, or as long as the company finds it viable to operate from Minginui.

What of the indigenous timber need today? Demand for native woods is declining annually. Under the Indigenous Policy, Government undertook to limit or stop their export, a policy that the present Minister, Jonathan Elworthy, is threatening to change.

At one time native timbers were abundant, and could be used — and wasted — for almost anything. Heart rimu was the ordinary building timber traditionally called for. Totara had wide use in joinery, and is now substituted by aluminium. Matai was for flooring. Kahikatea sustained the dairy industry with aroma-free butter-boxes until World War II. Today, though giant kahikatea is probably rarer than kauri, it is being wasted.

Indigenous hardwoods were traditionally disdained. Most puriri or taraire was wasted or used for posts. Tawa is today in some demand for turning and furniture-making. But it is a lovely, sub-canopy tree that must not be further imperilled. Exotic eucalypts grow faster and are fine substitutes.

Peter Tapsell MP has been claiming a need for a totara supply for Maori carving and crafts. To obtain this from ecological reserves and forest sanctuaries would be wrong and un-necessary. Enough totara for all craft use is currently being wasted or burned, from Maori or private-owned bush being felled for forestry leases, in Northland and other parts of the North Island.