

*Kahikatea (White-pine).*—In the extensive swamps by the Northern Wairoa and other rivers the kahikatea forms forests of remarkable character. The uniformly straight naked trunks often exceed 100ft. in height, carry very short branches at the tops, and are so close together that at a distance of a few yards the view is completely blocked, and nothing is to be seen but the column-like trunks, from 2ft. to 5ft. in diameter, the undergrowth being insignificant.

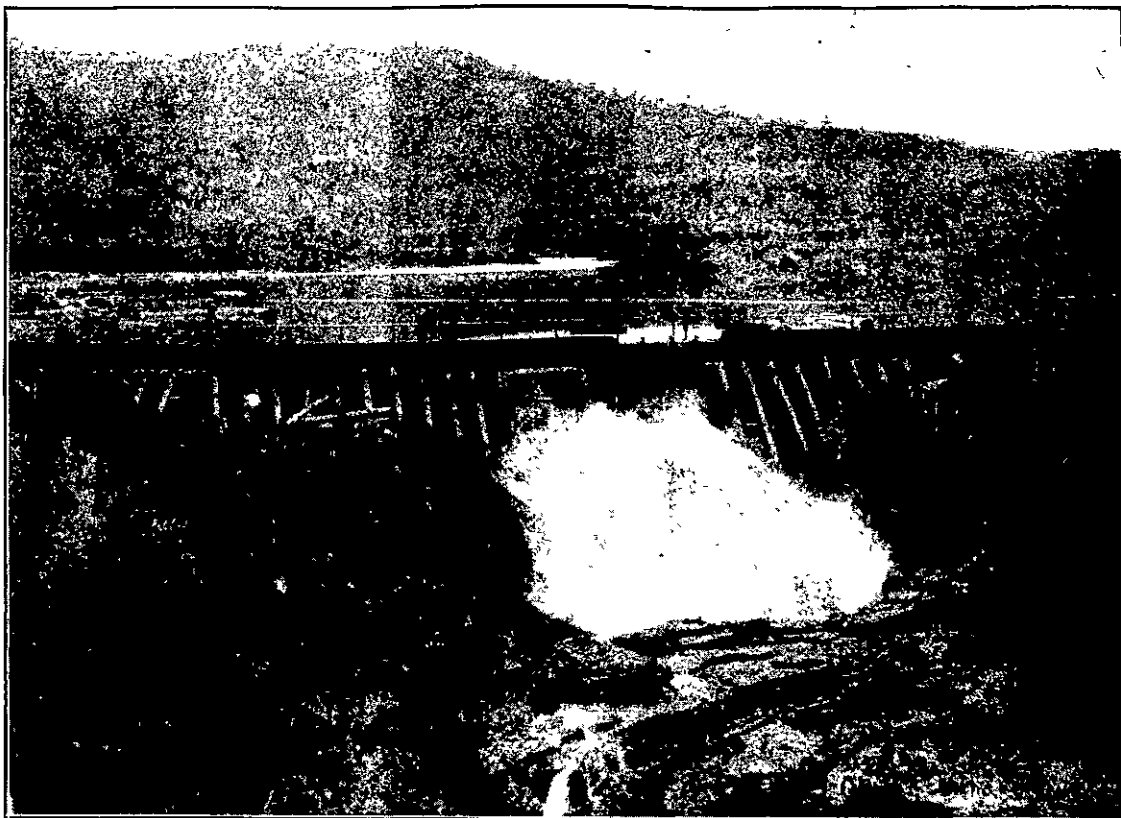
The tree is found in great abundance back from Whangarei in the North, and occurs all over the forest country of both Islands.

*The Totara District.*—This extends south from the Waikato Heads to the mouth of the Mokau; thence inland diagonally southward by the slopes of Ruapehu to the start of the Ruahine Range; thence south along the eastern watershed of the Ruahine Tararua, and Rimutaka Ranges to Cape Palliser; from Palliser along the coast to Tauranga.

The totara is everywhere in the forests of this region plentiful, especially on the eastern side, and it is, on the whole, the best to be found in New Zealand.

Large areas in which it is the prevailing tree are found in many parts south of the Lower Waikato, more especially in the southern parts of Hawkes Bay, the northern portion of the Wellington Land District, and the Seventy-mile Bush.

A well-grown totara forest has an imposing effect: majestic trunks, sixty feet or eighty feet to the first branch, tapering with the greatest regularity, grow so close together that very little top is developed, and the yield of first-class timber is enormous, sometimes amounting to 80,000 or even 100,000 superficial feet per acre. Usually, however, the trees are of smaller dimensions and the trunks are often distorted, and cannot be converted without a large proportion of waste.



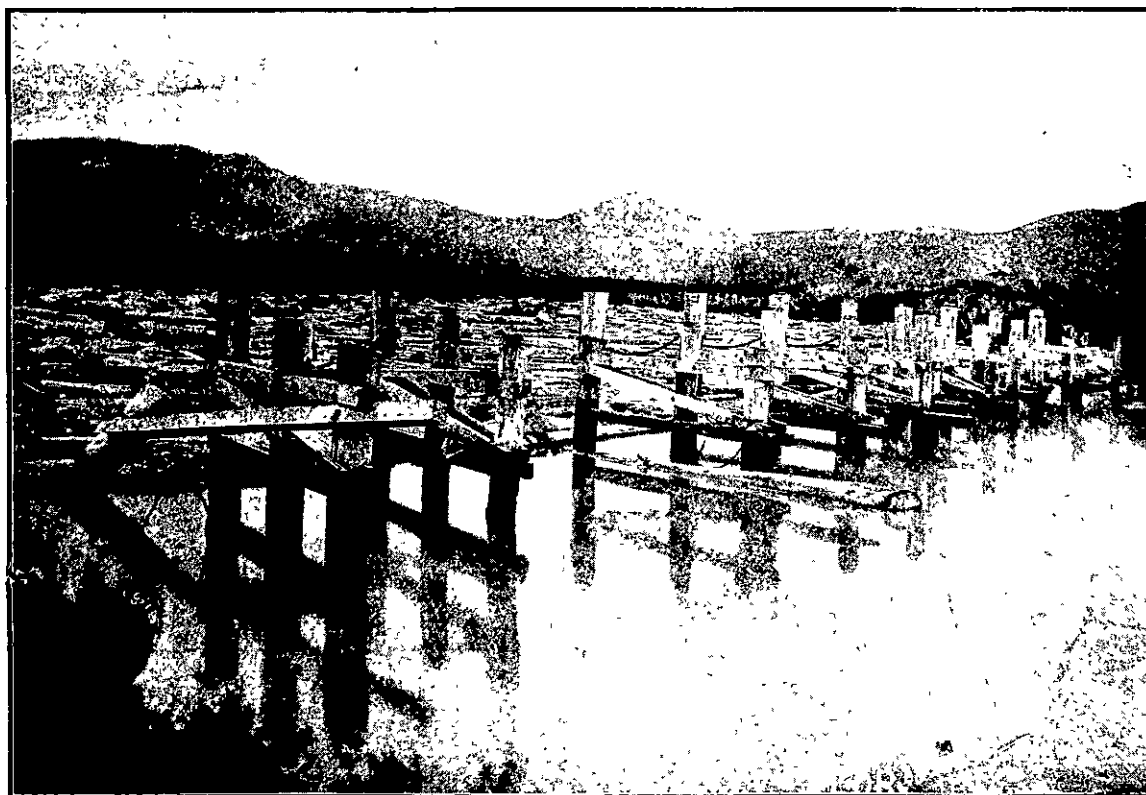
TRIPPING DAM FOR "DRIVE."

*North Island Red Pine District.*—This comprises all the country lying between the sea on the west and the eastern boundary of the totara district—i.e., a line south-south-west to the top of the Ruahine, and along the summits of the kindred ranges to Palliser Bay. There is totara in this district, but it is not so plentiful, nor in general so valuable, as it is in the other.

The red-pine (rimu), which is found in appreciable quantity in the other districts, is the predominant tree in this, and all other varieties abound, except the kauri, and with the exception of a patch near New Plymouth, where the rainfall is the highest in the district, puriri and pohutukawa.

Large portions of these forests consist chiefly of rimu, tawa, and kahikatea, which are extensively converted throughout the district.

*Southern Red Pine District.*—In this is comprised the whole Middle Island between the altitude of 1,000 ft. and sea-level, and also Stewart Island. There are several treeless tracts on the eastern side of the dividing range, the largest of which are the Amuri and Canterbury Plains, and Central Otago, lying between a line drawn from the Waitaki mouth to the southernmost point of Lake Wakatipu, and thence due north to the old Canterbury border. The only trees in this region are the forests on Lake Hawea and the tributary streams to the north. There are also patches of woodless country in eastern Marlborough and southern Otago. In the rest of this district in nearly all localities the forests are of a mixed character, yet from Marlborough to Stewart Island the rimu must be considered the predominating tree, and is the most extensively converted. The kahikatea stands next in abundance, and is closely approached by the kamahi; while the miro, matai, totara, Halls' totara are generally distributed; but the northern rata and pukatea scarcely occur south of Greymouth. The Westland silver-pine, yellow-silver pine and quintinia, although not peculiar to Westland, are more abundant there than in any other part of the country; while the southern rata, which extends to Stewart Island, is especially plentiful in the Tautuku Forest, where it attains very large dimensions. Cedar, or pahautea, pokaka, and hinau are not unfrequent, while most of the beeches are plentiful, especially in the southern parts of the district. The undergrowth contains large variety of shrubs or small trees, many of which afford timbers suitable for ornamental cabinet work and inlaying.



AFTER THE "DRIVE"—LOGS CAUGHT BY MAIN BOOM