

The reminiscences are chiefly concerned with his work on pasture development and the effect of World War II on him and his family and Japanese life in general, though he outlines first the events which caused his family to turn from a 500-year tradition of sake-brewing to Christianity and dairy farming. From an early age Dr Kawase was dedicated to developing grassland, establishing in the district of Nishinomiya a pioneer sheep farm—the biggest (with six sheep) in the vicinity—when he had completed his first university studies. Alas, all six sheep died and he decided to study grasslands farming scientifically. As facilities for this in Japan were virtually non-existent and through several contacts made at that time, New Zealand, particularly Lincoln College, appeared to be the ideal place, Dr Kawase arrived in Christchurch in 1931.

Though he was the first student from Japan he gives few details of his experiences in New Zealand, but we are referred to *Life and work at Canterbury Agricultural College* (Caxton Press, 1956) compiled by his former teacher Professor I. D. Blair which notes Dr Kawase's distaste for farm work, his impenetrable urbanity and ponders, perhaps rather ironically now:

We wondered later what Kawase, and later Nakano, took back to Japan and used during 1941-45, for they travelled widely in New Zealand, but post-war letters from the former make it clear that Lincoln is to him a very fondly remembered Alma Mater. (p. 166-7)

On his return to Japan, Dr Kawase continued experimental work on grasslands which resulted in two works being published—one adopted as a textbook. At this point (p. 5) he notes almost casually “Also in 1939, I published a book on New Zealand in Japanese, it was the first Japanese book written on New Zealand, and I got very good criticism it was sold over six thousand copies I believe.” As Dr Kawase is most specific about dates in the reminiscences there seemed no reason to suspect the 1939 date. What, then, was the 1941 issue which the Library had purchased? The Preface itself had clearly been written after 1940; was this a later issue or had he written two books—he mentions neither possibility, but he was in North China on his second research tour between May and November 1941. The problem of identification was further confused by a letter received from Dr Kawase in connection with his presentation to the Library of a copy of his book *The hidden history of the Japanese people* published in 1972 which attempts to trace historical links between the Jews, the Maori and the Japanese. Unfortunately for New Zealanders this book is also in Japanese. In his letter Dr Kawase refers to his earlier work—“The first book on New Zealand wrote in Japanese was written by me and published in 1937 . . .” stating that the only copy of it in New Zealand was one which he had personally presented in Japan to the son