

Kaka are very numerous in these areas and the conclusion that they are responsible for the damage is inescapable. Although many trees have been examined no trace of any wood boring or tunnelling grubs or larvae was noted. The exposed wood remains sound with rapid healing of the scar and on no occasion were trees observed to have been killed. The timber of such trees is, however, seriously degraded and as an extremely conservative estimate, several hundred thousand board feet reduced in value in this manner.

Comparable damage has not been observed on sound trees of any other species, although any partially decayed trees of any species are sought out. It is thought most unlikely that the birds tear the rimu bark in search of insects. It appears more probable that bark or sapwood exudates provide the attraction.

J. T. HOLLOWAY.

### **TOTARA PLANTATION OF KNOWN AGE**

In 1908 Mr. H. P. Kay made two small plantations of totara (*Podocarpus totara*) on his Prior Park property on the Wharerangi Road some 10 miles north-west of Napier. The site is a fertile valley bottom about 200 feet above sea level, the soil a fairly compact grey brown sandy loam, and the rainfall about 35 inches per annum. This is lower and heavier land than the typical totara country of Hawke's Bay.

Trees were obtained from the Rotorua Nursery of the Forestry Branch of the Department of Lands and Survey. The larger of the two plantations covers about half an acre, the original spacing varying from 7 to 9 feet. A good strike was obtained and, after 40 years, there has been little mortality in a completely closed stand. Interior dominants are 45-50 feet high and 8-10 inches in d.b.h., with an occasional tree up to 12 inches. The green level is 25-30 feet; below this brittle dead branches are persistent. Generally the branches are rather heavy and there is a considerable proportion of multiple leaders. Many marginal trees were bearing fruit during the 1948-49 summer.

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