NOTES.

INCREMENT OF KAURI (*Agathis australis*)

Data were obtained from the examination of 50 trees during logging operations at Omahuta and Waipoua State Forests. Age was based on stump ring counts on the assumption that each ring represents a year. It is considered that this assumption is sufficiently sound for the present purpose.

Stump ring counts were made for each tree and merchantable volume (inside bark) calculated in cubic feet.

Average I.B. volumes were grouped into 50 year age classes and the mean class volumes, plotted over mean age, were found to exhibit a well-defined trend. The following values were read from this curve and periodic annual and mean annual increment determined :—

Merchantable Volume and Increment per Tree.

Age (No. of rings)	Volume I.B. Cubic feet	P.A.I. Cubic feet	M.A.I. Cubic feet
100	70	0.8	0.70
150	115	1.0	0.77
200	170	1.2	0.85
250	235	1.5	0.94
300	320	1.7	1.07
350	395	1.2	1.13
400	440	0.8	1.10
450	475	0.5	1.06
500	495	0.4	0.99

The P.A.I. culminates between the 275th and 300th year, while the M.A.I. culminates in the 350th year.

A. D. McKINNON.

DROUGHT IN HAWKES BAY

Drought conditions experienced over most of New Zealand during the summer of 1945-46 were most severe in Central Hawkes Bay. The following monthly rainfalls for Napier and Waipukurau indicate the severity of this drought which broke on the 2nd March, 1946, and was fortunately followed by an autumn and early winter of unusual humidity and mildness.

	Napier			Waipukurau		
	Total Rainfall ins.	Deviation from Normal	No. of Rain Days	Total Rainfall ins.	Deviation from Normal	No. of Rain Days
November	0.02	—2.16	1	0.07	Not	3
December	0.93	—1.06	8	1.63	avail-	12
January	0.17	—2.53	4	0.49	able	6
February	0.00	—2.78	0	0.01		1
Total	1.12	—8.53	13	2.20	—	22