

Earthquake damages pulpmill

At 1.36p.m. on March 2 an earthquake of magnitude 6.2 (Richter Scale) severely damaged the Tasman Pulp and Paper Company pulpmill at Kawerau. Damage was also severe in surrounding towns.

The devastating earthquake hit in the afternoon when the kraft mill was operating at close to full capacity. Throughout the mill the plants shut down within seconds as the power supply failed.

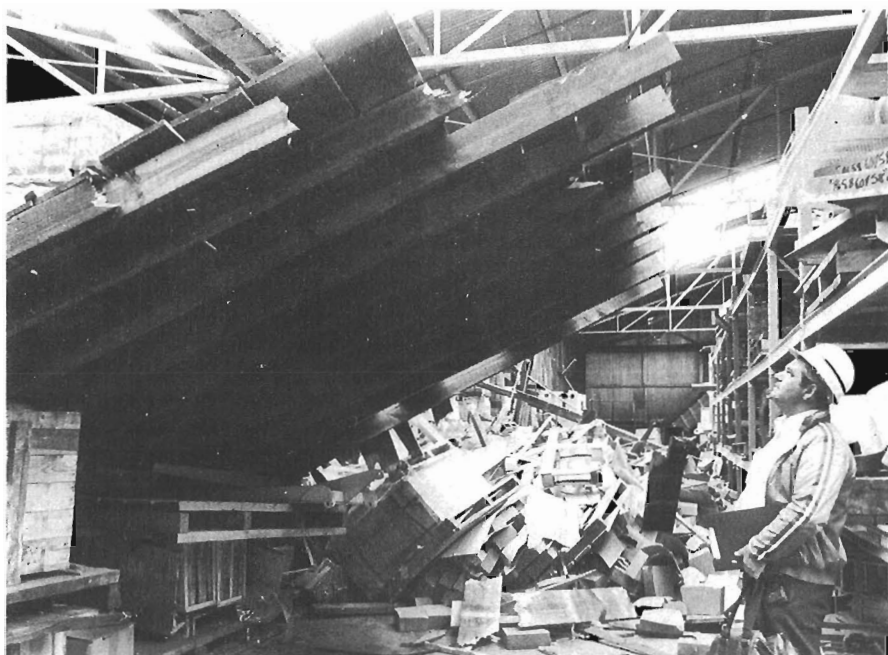
Evacuation was ordered and only three people were injured.

Damage was extensive to building structures, to stacks, recovery boilers as well as to the paper machines and grinder mills. Two of the paper machines 'crashed' from full running speed and one machine was very badly damaged.

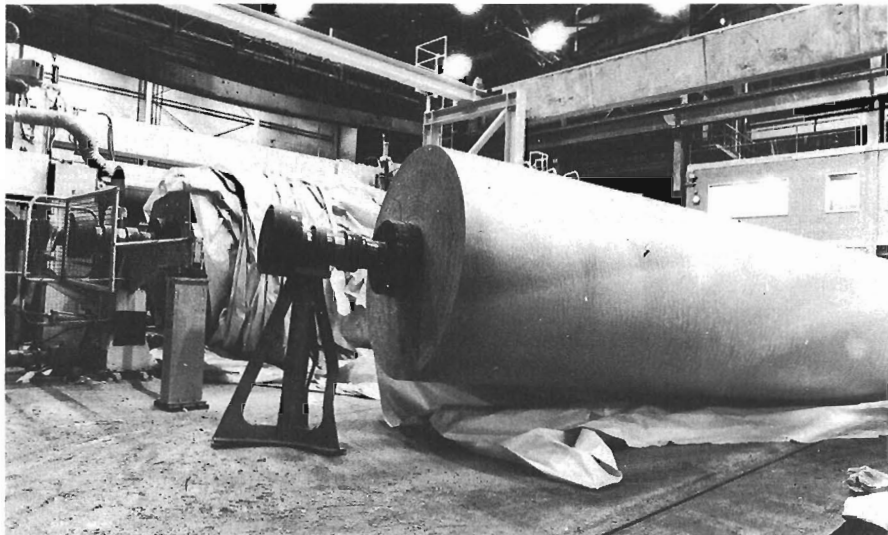
Two of the three paper machines, the pulp mills, No. 2 recovery boiler, and pulp drying and bailing should be back in production by May. The No 3 paper machine is expected back in production in late June.

New wood Preservation Council

The Timber Preservation Authority has been replaced by a Wood Preservation Council. The initiative for this came from the New Zealand Timber Industry Federation. The Council's board will be responsible for setting quality control standards, to promote New Zealand treated timber, and to encourage innovation in treatment technology.



Tasman Chief Fire and Security Officer Ken Williams inspects damage in one of the company's stores warehouses.



This 20-tonne jumbo reel hit the floor at the mill's No 2 paper machine.

International symposium on windbreak technology

The symposium, organized by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska, and the US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, Lincoln, was held at the Hilton Hotel Lincoln, Nebraska, USA in June 1986. Major sponsors included the Great Plains Agricultural Council, the US Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, the Soil Conservation Society of America and the University of Nebraska. The meeting attracted 400 scientists from 15 countries, including the Chinese People's Republic.

The aims of the symposium were to present the current state-of-the-art of windbreak technology, to provide a forum for the international exchange of ideas and prac-

tices, and to produce a monograph of selected papers.

Seventeen aspects of shelter technology were addressed, ranging from the basics of windbreak science through silviculture, control of soil erosion, energy conservation, protection of livestock, and agroforestry to the selection and breeding of improved trees for shelter. Apart from a single plenary session and the keynote address on the first day, sessions were run concurrently so that only an individual selection of papers was possible. Inevitably, coverage of individual topics was uneven, and some speakers reiterated information that at best was reasonably well known and at worst was very out-of-date. Other papers, notably those addressing the

aerodynamics of shelter or the attributes of tree species, were valuable résumés of present knowledge.

The impression left was that shelter research and application in New Zealand, and to a lesser extent in Canada, are in several respects ahead of those in other countries including the US itself. Keen interest was shown in the multi-functional roles of windbreaks and their attainment through management and promotion, which I took as joint themes for the keynote address. Shelterbelt standards generally are very low. As Walt Bagley (University of Nebraska) pointed out over a decade ago, the opportunity to combine wood production with shelter in the American Great Plains was