

The 'Log Walker' is designed to propel logs over widely differing terrain, including forest floors, swamps, sand, steep hill country, permafrost and snow-clad ground.

The half-tonne prototype has been tested in pine forests in the Bay of Plenty and in swamp country and hill country.

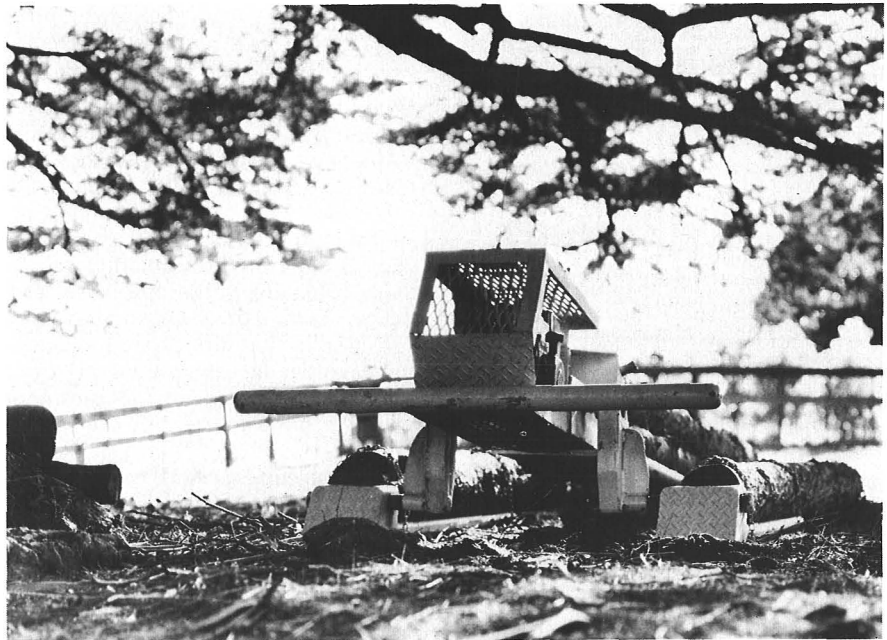
Using logs as its "legs", the prototype machine powered by a three-horsepower petrol motor, has arms which propel the logs strapped to it, steadily across the ground.

Some production models will be fitted with radio-controlled remote steering.

Because the invention is low-technology and low-maintenance, the company sees a major export market for it in Third World countries.

Commercial production of half-tonne, one, two and three tonne load models began at IST Engineering's Auckland plant in June.

An IST spokesman said the log walker would sell "for about half the cost in NZ of a small family car".



A half-tonne prototype of the NZ invented log walker powered by a three-horsepower petrol engine.

## Western Southland foresters forced to quit beech management halfway through first rotation

**H.H. Levack**

In June 1988, after long deliberation through its subcommittees, Cabinet finally decided on the allocation of 28,000 ha of lowland Western Southland beech forests which were on interim transfer to the Forestry Corporation. This area included about 12,000 ha of virgin beech in Dean and Rowallan forests.

The Department of Conservation wanted all this virgin forest to be protected from logging to help ensure the survival of rarer birdlife but the Forestry Corporation contended that the rare wildlife was adequately catered for as DOC already had 44,000 ha of beech forest in Waitutu, Rowallan, Dean and Longwood as well as substantial tracts of contiguous lowland forest in Fiordland National Park. The Forestry Corporation also claimed that substantial beech management was both technically feasible and economically viable, that Tuatapere township depended on beech management continuing, and that continued beech management would depend on the Forestry Corporation getting a substantial share of the remaining virgin forest.

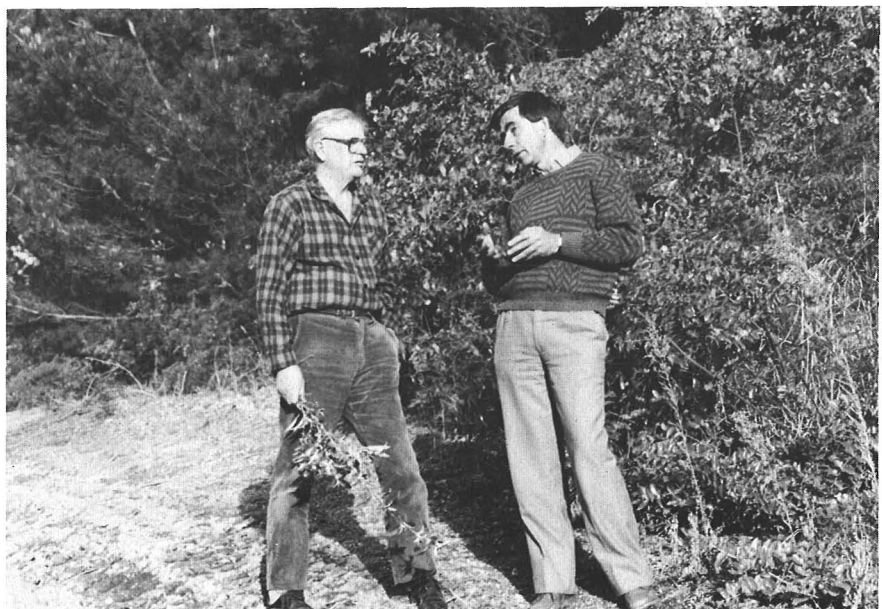
The outcome was that Government awarded the critical virgin forest to DOC. Since then the Forestry Corporation has announced that it will indeed

pull out of beech management in Western Southland.

It is ironical that so soon after granting this increase to DOC's empire Government has hit DOC with major budget cuts rumoured to be about 20% of its

1987/88 total. The Tuatapere community is glum, but some kakas and yellow-heads have reason to rejoice. Other more common birds would probably have preferred that the virgin forests had gone to the Forestry Corporation.

### Pictured on Conference field trip



Dave Rook (Conference Organizer), on right, talking to Colin Bassett. (Photo L. Crozier)