

timber-workers were granted and the time when compensating increases were authorized in timber prices—*e.g.*, an increase on account of a wage rise in November, 1947, was not authorized until August, 1948, and a wage rise in January, 1949, had to be carried until March, 1949.

Logs sawn consisted of insignis pine, 66 per cent; larch, 23 per cent.; corsican pine, 10 per cent.; and other species, 1 per cent. The proportion of clear-felled insignis pine was lower than last year's figure; and this was reflected in a reduction in the average log size and a slight increase in the production of narrow widths. The yield for the year was:—

					Per Cent.
Up to 6 in. wide	..	..	..	..	60
Over 6 in. to 9 in. wide	..	..	..	..	32
Over 9 in. wide	..	..	..	..	8

Year Ended 31st March,				Sold or Used Green.		Filleted for Air Seasoning.		Filleted for Kiln Dryin g.	
				Bd. ft.	Per Cent.	Bd. ft.	Per Cent.	Bd. ft.	Per Cent.
1945	..	..	..	3,629,000	29	3,366,000	27	5,444,000	44
1946	..	..	..	3,917,000	28	2,486,000	18	7,355,000	54
1947	..	..	..	5,846,000	36	3,167,000	20	7,126,000	44
1948	..	..	..	4,534,000	27	2,670,000	16	9,577,000	57
1949	..	..	..	4,241,000	24	2,672,000	15	11,038,000	61

One new 66 ft. kiln was completed and brought into operation during the year, increasing the total kiln capacity to six 66 ft. and one 20 ft. chambers. Based on the assumption that the plant is capable of drying for 335 days of twenty-four hours, the kiln operating factor was 94 per cent. The quantity of timber dried per kiln hour was 255 board feet. Comparative kiln-drying figures for the past five years are given in the following schedule:—

Year Ended 31st March,				Green.	Part Air Seasoned.	Total.	Percentage of Production
				Bd. ft.	Bd. ft.	Bd. ft.	
1945	..	..	..	5,196,000	487,000	5,683,000	46
1946	..	..	..	7,077,000	750,000	7,827,000	57
1947	..	..	..	7,525,000	721,000	8,246,000	51
1948	..	..	..	8,611,000	1,162,000	9,773,000	58
1949	..	..	..	11,323,000	557,000	11,880,000	66

The kiln-drying costs of this unit are the lowest in New Zealand. The Waipa plant was established to turn out a superfine product, and proof of the quality of its output lies in the very keen demand which exists for kiln-dried timber on the Australian market. It is reported that this timber has established a standard in Australia against which timber from all other New Zealand sources is judged.

With the higher output from the sawmill and a reduction in the amount used by the box-factory, substantially larger quantities of sawn timber were available this year for sale. Demand for timber remained firm, and an improvement in the shipping position enabled the previous year's exports to Australia to be more than doubled, shipments