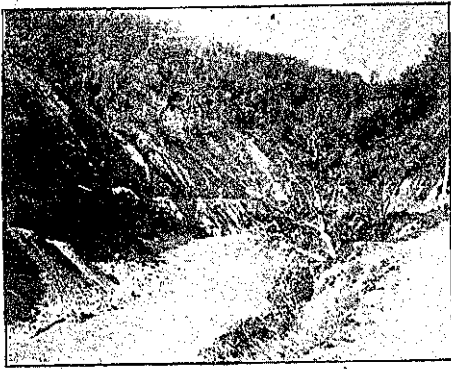


rivers of Southland. The Mataura, with its sounding falls and sombre pools, has no fellowship with the shallow Makarewa, the Oreti under its low, level cliffs differs from the clear but erratic Aparima, and the Aparima is but a brook compared with the resistless Waiau.

The rivers of the South Island differ from those of the North. The Manawatu in its wooded gorges; the Wairarapa in its broad fertile valley; the Taranaki streams flowing from the giant volcano, Mount Egmont; the rivers of the wonderful Hot Lake regions; the tributaries of the historical Waikato, and



THE MANAWATU.

One of the largest Wellington Trout Streams.

the upper waters of the Waipa in the little known King Country, all have their peculiar characteristics, and all carry at the present time more or less trout. To give the particular features of the rivers in any one district would require a large amount of description.

### THE METHODS OF FISHING.

The variety of fishing is not so great as the differences between the rivers, it can be divided into three classes: Minnow spinning at the mouths of the large rivers, fishing with the bait in still waters, fly fishing and bait fishing in rapid water. Minnow spinning at the mouths of the great snow rivers is distinct from other methods, and is

very popular with those who consider that the best sport lies in obtaining the heaviest baskets.

At the mouths of the Rangitata, Rakaia, Waitaki and the Southland Waiau phenomenal takes have been made, from 50lbs to 150lbs, being no uncommon yield to a single rod in one day. The fish vary in weight from 4lbs to 14lbs, and sometimes reach as high as 24lbs, the average being about 6lbs. The best sport is obtained where the fresh water meets the tide, and generally during the last two hours of ebb, and the first three hours of the "flow." Fishing in such places has none of the attractions of good scenery. The rivers generally run over wastes of shingle brought down in floods, but immediately where they debouch into the sea they frequently gather in one stream, or estuary, between banks of sand. A long rod, strong tackle and a good supply of bait are necessary. Artificial minnows are most generally used, the White-bait, Phantom or ordinary Devon being the most effective. At certain seasons of the year live or dead bait, in the shape of smelt, white bait or bully, are most deadly; but the artificial minnow is most popular, as it gives the least trouble.

The method of fishing is simple enough. The trout feed on the small fish I have mentioned, and the angler has only to make his bait imitate the natural action of the small fry to secure sport. The rod is not a very important feature; if it is anywhere near fifteen feet in length and moderately supple, it will do. The line should be at least one hundred yards in length, and of strong oiled silk. The reel should have a large barrel, so as to wind in quickly, and should have a strong check, checking with the fingers on the line is painful work with a lively ten pounder. The trace should be of the strongest salmon gut, single or twisted, according to the water, and about four feet long, with at least three small swivels. It is a great convenience to have a small spring catch on the trace, so that minnows can be quickly changed.