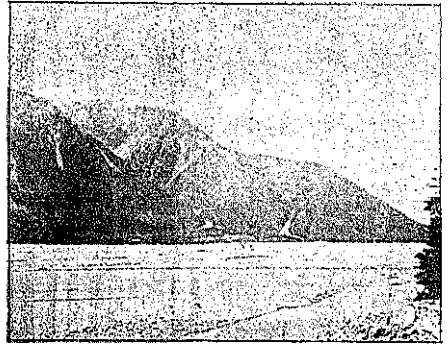


flood during dry, hot weather. Anglers have need to study these peculiarities. A few hours of nor'-west wind will turn shallow streams into raging, turbulent floods, which in the gorges rise a score feet or more, and on the plains spread out in places over a mile in width.

Why the great Southern rivers should be low in rainy weather and high in dry weather is easily explained. Having their sources up among the illimitable snowfields with glaciers winding down all the main tributaries, they are very susceptible to changes in temperature. Rain only falls on the lowlands in south-west and easterly weather, and on the high country the rain is changed to snow. When the nor'-west winds, which blow so frequently in summer time, reach the high altitudes they discharge the moisture gathered in their passage across the wide Tasman Sea, and retain the heat accumulated in the tropics and on the dry plains of Australia. The warm rains and the warm wind melt the snow with wonderful rapidity, and from the vast white fields and majestic glacier valleys the snow waters pour by ten thousand channels, leaping into

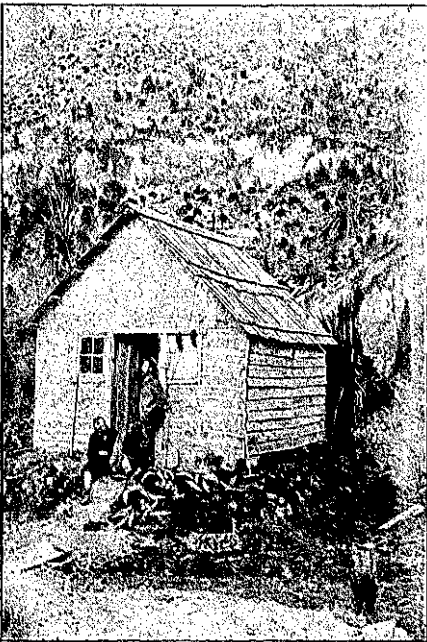
the parent stream with a fury that is irresistible. The New Zealand angler may swear at these sudden changes, for they spoil all chances of fishing, but he cannot



THE UPPER RANGITATA RIVER, CANTERBURY.

but admire the might and majesty of the rushing waters and the terrible fierceness of the nor'-west wind in the gorges.

These Snow Rivers, as I remarked in a previous article, offer the best fishing near the sea, and their estuaries will always provide the main supply of trout, for the real home of the largest trout is the Pacific, and the rivers are their summer feeding ground; but from the sea coast to the mountain tributaries such rivers as the Waimakariri, the Rakaia, the Waitaki, the Waiau, the Rangitata, Clutha, Aparima, and scores of others carry splendid fish. If an angler wants big baskets let him fish from the dreary shingle wastes within reach of the salt tide. If he wants pretty fishing and magnificent scenery let him travel into the mountain gorges, where he will learn to feel something of the might and grandeur of the Snow Rivers—something that will add to the charm of sport and to his love of nature. I remember fishing one morning in the gorge of the Rakaia when I saw such a sight as was worth many champion trout. On each side of me rose precipitous cliffs of shingle several hundred feet high. Above the cliffs like titanic steps rose the wonderful glacial terraces, square cut, magnificently regular, each step at least five hundred feet in height, and the highest only reaching to the base of Mount Hutt. Then a bold slope of rocky mountain side rising to a clinging



FISHING HUT, UPPER SELWYN.

AN EVENING'S BASKET WITH CREEPER AND FLY.