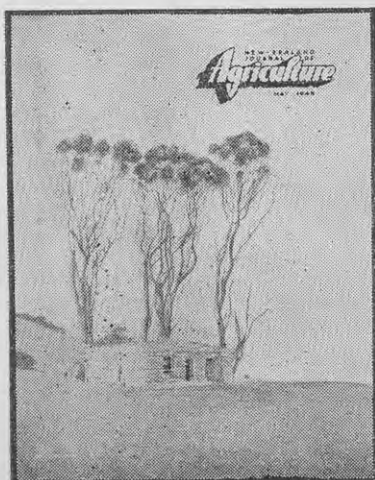


This month's cover



As transport facilities were restricted to infrequent coastal services and access to inland areas often presented a problem, early settlers frequently had to build their homes from material close at hand. This month's cover, painted by Allan Mitchell and based on a photograph by Geo. Chance, F.R.P.S., Dunedin, shows the remains of an old mud farmhouse near Taieri Mouth, a small, picturesque farming and fishing settlement in Otago. The first farmers of the Taieri district confined their activities to hilly and undulating country rather than to the Taieri Plain, because the plain was too swampy and prone to flooding. However, as flood protection works were constructed and drainage provided farming became concentrated on the flats and today the plain is one of the main sources of dairy produce, fat cattle, lambs, meat, wool, and vegetables in Otago.

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