

THE SPECIAL SCHOOL FOR BOYS AT OTEKAIKE



Milking time at the Special School. There are 30 grade Frésians in the dairy herd and both machine and hand milking are taught.

Forestry Training

Forestry is one of the most interesting aspects of farming at the Special School. When the property was privately owned large areas of the flat land in front of the homestead were covered with coniferous plantations. A sawmill produced 2,000,000 board feet of timber in 16 years, and several buildings at Otekaike, still in first-class order after 40 years, were con-

structed with *Pinus radiata* timber grown on the property.

Among the many splendid trees at the Special School are 27 varieties of conifers, but the valuable timber crops produced today come entirely from plantations of Douglas fir and *Pinus radiata* on land unfit for pastoral farming. The trees now being cropped are thinnings, which are sawn, barked, and creosoted by the boys for use as fence posts.

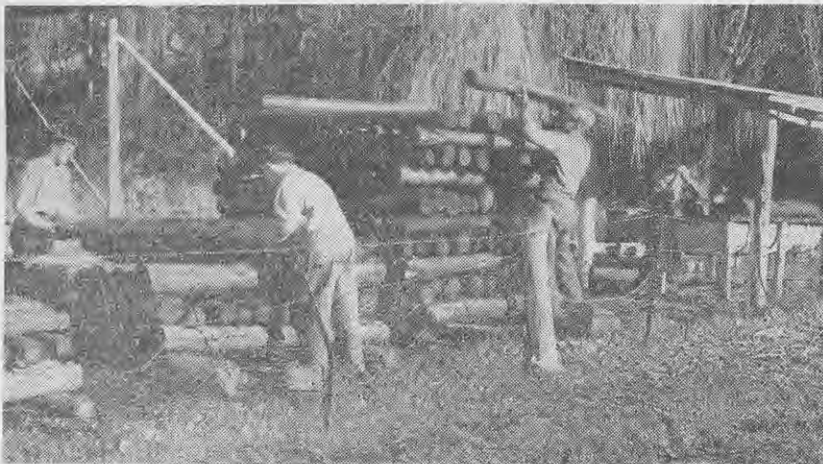
Fencing Instruction

In the past 5 years the boundary fence—about 3½ miles long—has been completely renewed by the boys, who have also erected a similar length of fencing on the farm. In the past 2 years alone the plantations have supplied 800 fencing posts for use on the farm, and last year 100 strainers and 200 intermediate posts were sold.

In giving the boys experience in all departments of farm work the Special School has turned out some first-class hands at fencing.

Neighbouring farmers sometimes call on the School for help at weekends. The boys are encouraged to go out and work for them; they enjoy doing it, and their earnings are paid into the School's recreation fund, from which all benefit.

Many, but not all, of the boys who leave Otekaike go to jobs on the land. When they have had sufficient training to enable them to take their place in the community the field staff of the Child Welfare Division help to find work for them. If a boy is best suited to farm work, the Child Welfare Officer will discuss his case with a farmer who is in need of a hand, and, if a job is arranged, visit the boy at intervals which gradually lengthen, until the Division is convinced that a good placement, satisfactory to all concerned, has been made.



Stacking fence posts after creosoting. Thinnings cropped from the plantations on the farm provide all the School's fencing requirements and leave a surplus to be sold.