OBITUARY
Fred Allsop (1900-1977)

Fred Allsop took an M.Sc. in chemistry at Sheffield and then went to Cambridge for the forestry course. Excluding 1942-45 he served as a forest officer in Burma from 1925 to 1947 when all Europeans had to leave as the country became independent. He joined the New Zealand Forest Service in 1948.

Fred's first job here was to make radiata pine yield tables for use in the Murupara Plan to utilise produce from Kaingaroa Forest. The task was complicated by a shortage of older age-classes and Sirex-caused losses in the younger, but the pioneer work was quickly and competently carried out.

Allsop was then appointed to be Officer-in-charge of the Forest Research Institute. FRI had no great reputation at that time. Many of its staff were inexperienced in research and its major activity, the National Forest Survey, was unknown to outsiders. A. R. Entrican, the Director of Forestry, was as usual in a hurry and demanded impressive results quickly. Fred countered with some urbane stone-walling and by effective and good-tempered administration was able to strengthen the foundations of the Institute, for which, in my opinion, he has never been given enough credit.

Fred transferred to Nelson as Conservator in 1955, where he was undoubtedly happier under less Head Office pressure. He was persuaded to go to Wellington in the sixties to become Director of Forest Management. He was not perhaps a great innovator, but as a thoroughly experienced administrator he got through a great deal of work more quickly than most of his contemporaries.

Fred Allsop's main hobby was riding and there were few periods in his life when he did not own one or more horses. His wife, a niece of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Burma, was quite at home in a forestry environment; she died in 1975.

H.V.H.