

the statutory dipping-period. The first operation costs comparatively little, owing to the shortness of the wool, and it rids the lambs of the parasites which desert the older sheep as soon as shorn. The second dipping will destroy the vermin hatched from eggs which perhaps survived the first immersion, and results in the flock being in good clean condition to face the winter months. Where this practice is adopted a poisonous dip is considered preferable for the second dipping on account of its more lasting effect.

The idea which largely prevails amongst sheepowners—that vermin are a necessary concomitant to poverty—is entirely erroneous. Neither lice nor ticks can arise spontaneously. Low condition is certainly conducive to the increase of vermin, but if a sheep was absolutely clean and was not exposed to infection from others it would not develop vermin, no matter how poor in condition it became.

#### LEGAL REQUIREMENTS.

The Stock Act of 1908 requires that all long-wool or crossbred sheep must be dipped annually between the 1st January and the 31st March in the North Island, and elsewhere between the 1st February and the 30th April. Also, that if at any time lice or ticks are found in a flock the owner may be called upon to dip. Lice-affected sheep must not be driven along any highway without an Inspector's permission, nor must such sheep be exposed for sale.

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#### THE THRIFTY DANES.

To New-Zealanders who have personally investigated the dairy-factory work of Denmark the only feature which has appealed to them as being in any measure in advance of the system of co-operative buttermaking in vogue in the Dominion was the attention to small details, economies in apparently minor matters, which in the aggregate represent a not inconsiderable reduction in cost of manufacture. An instance of this policy of thrift is the use in some Danish butter-factories of a milk-draining stand, illustrated on the opposite page, on which the milk-cans are inverted as soon as these are emptied of their contents, in order that every drop of milk may be saved. Danish authorities declare that the cost of these draining-stands, well-made appliances, have been covered by the saving effected in only a few months, and that the annual economy effected a good reduction in the expenses of management. This conveys a good idea of the very careful work of the industrious Dane. While, however, it may pay in Denmark, where the individual milk-supply is small (often as many as 140 suppliers being necessary for a daily output of a ton of butter), and labour is cheap, it would be impracticable under our conditions.