

LUMSDEN.—October has been one of the wettest months of the year. Heavy rains and occasional slight falls of snow and hail, accompanied by severely cold winds, retarding all growth.

Pastures have benefited by recent rains. Green feed is none too plentiful. Oats are looking well.—*W. S. S. Cantrell.*

QUEENSTOWN.—During first fortnight in October the weather was fine; since then cold weather from the south with snow has been experienced over the whole of this district. In Upper Wakatipu runholders state that it has been the worst weather that they have had at this season for twenty years, and they anticipate a heavy loss in lambs.

Pastures are very backward, and green feed is scarce. Cropping is only done on a small scale, but the cereals planted are looking well.—*A. Clarke.*

PEMBROKE.—This season is fully a month later than usual, no doubt owing to the exceptionally cold winds and late frosts, grass and crops generally being in consequence not as far advanced at this time of the year as is usual. The heavy rains about the middle of the month (although cold and stormy) were just in time, and were welcomed by the farmers. The weather on the whole was more or less stormy—cold southerly winds. The mortality among young lambs was slighter than was anticipated; in general the lambing was good.

The grass has got a fair start. Farmers are trying lucerne on a small scale. Winter wheat, all sown in the autumn, is promising, as is the spring wheat. Barely enough oats are grown for local requirements.

Shearing has now commenced, and there are no idle men in the district. The general outlook is very promising all round.—*J. A. Griffith.*

AGRICULTURAL-SHOW DATES.

SPRING AND SUMMER FIXTURES.

Otago Metropolitan Agricultural and Pastoral Society, 29th and 30th November, Dunedin.

Palmerston and Waihemo Agricultural and Pastoral Association, 1st December, Palmerston.

Lake County Agricultural and Pastoral Association, 1st December, Arrowtown.

Clutha and Mataura Agricultural and Pastoral Society, 1st December, Balclutha.

Gore Agricultural and Pastoral Association, 5th and 6th December, Gore.

Southland Metropolitan Agricultural and Pastoral Association, 12th and 13th December, Invercargill.

Secretaries of rural show societies in general are requested to forward the dates of the shows of their organizations as soon as available, for notification in this *Journal*.

SOFT-CHEESE MANUFACTURE.

Miss G. Nest Davies, N.D.D. (National Diploma in Dairying), who holds high credentials from British institutions, has been appointed instructress in soft-cheese making to the Department. Applications for instruction on this subject are invited.