

showers, which were of great value to stockowners, and there is abundance of feed. Within the vicinity of Masterton the country is dry. On the 27th instant the weather broke, and a fair amount of rain fell, which was wanted. Turnips and rape were suffering before the rain fell, but will now recover. Stock throughout the district are looking well. Harvesting is well advanced. I expect wheat will be good, and oats about the average.—*J. S. Rankin.*

MASTERTON.—During the month of January we had twenty-five days of very hot dry weather, but rain fell on the 27th and 28th, and had a very beneficial effect upon the rape crops, many of which had been languishing for want of nourishment. Farmers took advantage of the fine weather to harvest their crops, and I anticipate a very fair yield of both oats and wheat. Caterpillars made their appearance and did a good deal of damage, oats suffering the most. Algerians appear to resist the ravages of the pest. I also notice the turnip-fly has done considerable damage, and in some cases the turnips have had to be resown. There have been some excellent crops of good clean cocksfoot-seed saved this year, and a lot of really good seed has been allowed to go to waste. There were some very good crops of early potatoes, and the present crops are looking very well. Feed is plentiful throughout the district.—*T. C. Webb.*

WELLINGTON.—The weather during January was generally mild and pleasant, a few days warm steady rains freshening up pastures, which were browning rapidly. All crops of oats, turnips, and maize are also looking well. All classes of stock are in good condition, although in the past few days the milk-supply has declined.—*G. H. Jenkinson.*

BLenheim.—The weather during the month was very hot and dry until the 28th, when there was a set-back to winter, snow falling on most of the high country, and the temperature falling to nearly freezing-point that night, changing again yesterday (30th) to summer. Harvesting is nearly finished—a week or two will see the end—and already a quantity of oats has been cut for chaff. Owing to the lateness of the frosts, the yield of peas is below the average; in some cases they were so poor that threshing operations had to cease.—*F. H. Brittain.*

SEDDON.—The weather-conditions for the month of January were very favourable both from harvesting and grazing points of view. Rain fell on five days at intervals, which all pastures sorely needed, and did not interfere with threshing operations. There have been record crops of barley, ranging from 50 to 67 bushels per acre. Most farmers in this district are fortunate in having a considerable amount of rape on hand, enabling them to hold lambs pending settlement of the freezing-works dispute.—*E. T. Sinclair.*

NELSON.—The weather for the month was changeable. Heavy showers of rain fell on several days, which improved the pastures and green, root, and late corn crops. Though the total rainfall for the month was 3 in., more is wanted, the strong hot winds having dried up the country to a certain extent. There is still a fair amount of corn to be harvested, and some of the late crops have not been cut yet.—*Gilbert Ward.*

WESTLAND.—Weather-conditions throughout last month were most unseasonable for the time of the year, and, instead of getting warm summer weather, it was more like winter most of the time. There were nineteen wet days, and the rainfall to date (29th) has been 6.61 in., the maximum fall being on the 20th, when 1.42 in. was recorded. Agricultural pursuits were considerably hampered, and in a good many instances crops which should have been cut are still standing; while in other cases they are spoilt, owing to inability to stack through continual wet weather. This is very unfortunate, as the settler on the West Coast largely depends on his hay for feed for stock through the winter months. There is a coating of snow on the high country, and present appearances point to an early autumn.—*H. J. Walton.*

KAIKOURA.—During the earlier part of last month exceptionally hot and dry weather prevailed, the country thereby becoming too dry for green crops. Rains falling on the 22nd, 28th, and 31st benefited these greatly, and they are now coming on well. Grain crops, generally speaking, are good throughout the district, and are being got together in good condition. Potatoes promise to be a fair crop.—*William S. Goodall.*

ASHBURTON.—Very warm weather was experienced in the early part of the month, 90 degrees of heat being registered. On the 27th a very heavy hailstorm passed over the lower portion of the district, which completely threshed out some of the oat crops. 2.70 in. of rain fell during the month, which will greatly help the turnip and rape crops.—*C. Branigan.*