

FAIRLIE.—A very unfavourable month—very dry, windy weather. All crops have suffered. Harvesting has commenced, and is much earlier than was expected; a good many crops have only half filled. It is expected that oats will be scarce. Rain fell during the last week in the month, which did a lot of good to the root crops, but came too late for the grain.—*W. B. Manning.*

TIMARU.—The weather was very unsettled during the month of January, great heat, heavy wind, snow on the hill country, and some heavy rains which were badly wanted. Harvest is in full swing, and a large quantity of grass has been made into hay this season.—*J. C. Huddleston.*

WAIMATE.—The weather during the past month was most changeable, heat and cold, rain, hail, and winds being general. Cereal crops in some localities look well, but, speaking generally, yields are not expected to be up to last season's. Smut and fly are much in evidence, but the chief cause of any shortage in yield may be put down to weather-conditions, which have been anything but suitable for some considerable time for agricultural pursuits. Pastures have held out well, and feed generally is good, particularly on high country. All classes of stock are looking well. Root crops look encouraging, more particularly on areas which have been well cultivated. Co-operative field experiments under supervision of the Department with both oats and wheat look well. More interest is now being taken in these experiments by farmers generally. Clovers have this season grown well, and it is expected that more grass-seed than usual will be harvested. Peas, beans, and rape are doing well.—*F. A. Macdonald.*

KUROW.—The north-west winds that prevailed during last month were very detrimental to growing crops, the hot dry weather having caused cereals to ripen prematurely, and where crops were exposed to the wind considerable loss resulted through shaking. Although the past month was unfavourable for growth, some splendid crops of wheat, barley, and oats are to be seen on the Otekaike Settlement and in the Hakataramea Valley, and the yields give promise of being quite up to the average of last year, providing no further loss is caused by winds, &c. Welcome rain fell on the 20th and 26th, which will greatly benefit root crops, and also help to revive the burnt pastures. Shearing is mostly finished in this district, and sheepowners have had record clips and record prices for their wool. The Waitaki River has been in high flood during the last week, and losses of cattle and horses off the islands are reported.—*G. Reid.*

ŌAMARU.—The weather last month ran to extremes: a week or so of hot north-west winds—the thermometer registering 84 degrees in the shade—followed by cold southerly gales and rains for the latter part of the month. Harvesting has started, but is not yet general. It is to be expected that the yields of oats and wheat will not reach a very high standard this season. Potatoes are not coming on very well. The district of Kauroo Hill seems to be ahead of the lower country for crops, &c., this season.—*W. F. Flower.*

PALMERSTON SOUTH.—The first half of the month was very dry and warm, the 19th being the hottest day since February, 1909. The outlook was not very promising, harvest coming in too fast, pastures burning up, and turnip crops on the verge of failure for want of rain. During the last fortnight we had a pleasant change, periodically heavy rains freshening up pastures greatly and saving many turnip crops. Crops throughout the district are below the average and not well filled, though better around the coast than inland. Turnip crops are poor, but may be expected to do better after the recent rains. Potatoes are not very promising, and the blight has made its appearance. Total rainfall, 2.81 in.—*C. S. Dalgliesh.*

DUNEDIN.—The weather during January for the first part was warm and dry. During the last week there were good rains, but, unfortunately, the high winds spoiled the effect, and a good deal of grain has been shaken. The pastures are beginning to go off a little. Turnips are backward owing to lateness in sowing. Potatoes are fair, and little or no blight is reported in this district. There was an abundant hay harvest, and on the whole the dairy-farmer has a fair prospect for the autumn and winter.—*J. R. Renton.*

MOSGIEL.—During the month of January the weather was very mixed, with heavy rain-showers and hail, checking the growth considerably. The blight has made its appearance among the potato crops throughout the district. Harvesting has started, but is not yet general. Small birds are playing havoc with early-sown crops.—*H. McLeod.*

STRATH TAIRI.—During the early part of January the weather was very hot, with several days of warm winds which dried up vegetation. The cereal crops are good.