

although some of the oats whitened off rather than ripened. The early turnips are promising well, but those late sown are going to be light. Grass is still abundant, and stock of all kinds are in splendid condition.—*W. Scott.*

MANIOTOTO.—From the 20th December up to the 26th January the district was subjected to very dry weather, accompanied by hot winds. This had the effect of drying up the grass and stunting all kinds of crops. Since yesterday (26th) we have had a splendid fall of rain, and it is still coming down, with no appearance of clearing. Stock of all kinds, especially sheep, are in fine condition.—*A. T. N. Simpson.*

CLYDE.—The weather for the month of January was very dry until the latter end, when we were treated to a good shower or two of rain, but not enough to do the district any good as regards the advancement of crops.—*Thomas N. Baxter.*

LAWRENCE.—The weather was extremely hot, with drying winds in the first portion of the month. The effect was to bring the grain crops on too rapidly, therefore they will be mostly light both in straw and yield. Turnips have also suffered with the dry spell. The fly has been very severe in some cases, and also the grub. Stock of all descriptions are looking well. Harvest will be considerably earlier than last year.—*R. Barron.*

BALCLUTHA.—During the month heavy gales prevailed, and much damage was done to crops and fruit. A good downpour of rain is badly needed. Pastures have gone back considerably, but there is still sufficient feed for stock. Harvest will be light this season, as the crops are filling very poorly. Early turnips are looking very well. Potatoes have come on well, but blight has started in places through the district. Some fine crops of rye-grass in the district. The rainfall for the month was 2.60 in., rain falling on fifteen days, the heaviest fall (68 points) being on the 20th. Total rainfall for the year 1912, 25½ in.—*H. A. Munro.*

OWAKA.—The weather for January was dry and warm. Crops of all kinds made good growth. Hay was stacked in first-class condition. Pastures are good, and feed is plentiful everywhere. Potatoes came on extremely well, but, unfortunately, blight has made a slight appearance in some crops. Swedes are most satisfactory, and soft turnips are also looking well.—*Robert McGillivray.*

GORE.—During the past month we experienced some very high winds, causing considerable damage to some of the grass crops, as well as burning up the pastures considerably. Grass harvesting is well advanced, and threshing has started in some places, and the seed should be saved in good order. Grain crops are looking well, and, given good weather, harvesting should start about the middle of the present month. The yields will not on the whole be so heavy as last year. Turnips are looking exceptionally well, and there is promise at present of a plentiful supply of feed during the coming winter.—*B. Grant.*

LUMSDEN.—The weather for January was anything but seasonable. During the first week we experienced nice warm sunny days, and then we had gusty boisterous winds and incessant bitter showers occasionally, accompanied by hail, and towards the end of the month there was very warm weather with hot drying winds which at times increased to a strong gale, causing a deal of damage to the grass crops by shaking out the seed. Oat crops are very short, and the yield will be very light. Turnips are looking remarkably well, a much larger area being sown this season. The strong winds we are getting will cause a small yield in grass-seed in many cases.—*W. S. S. Cantrell.*

INVERCARGILL.—January was a good growing month. The oat crop lengthened considerably, and turnips look well. The grass harvest is perhaps on the light side. Feed is still fairly plentiful, but is going back. This is the season of the year when a stack of ensilage on the farm would be of great value in keeping up the milk-supply. The country at present is looking well. Potatoes never looked better.—*J. R. Whyborn.*

OTAUTAU.—The early part of the month was fine and warm—in fact, almost too dry. After such a long spell of wet weather the ground became hard and caked, but latterly some fine showers came and everything was benefited by them. One particularly fine crop of oats is growing on Ringway, which, I should say, will thresh 100 bushels if not more—so far the best in the district.—*H. F. Dencker.*

QUEENSTOWN.—The weather for the month was very changeable at times—even within the twenty-four hours we experienced the weather suitable for the four periods. A fair amount of rain fell, which in some districts has been the actual salvation of grain crops, &c.; but, generally speaking, pastures, &c., have not benefited to any great extent in consequence of the continual, and in most cases cold, southerly winds following and drying up the moisture within a few hours.—*A. Clarke.*