

clovers it is a very good indication that the seed has been badly cleaned, as this weed-seed is easily dressed out. Seed-merchants having lines of clovers containing ox-eye daisy should always have them recleaned before placing them on the market. The same applies to meadow fescue. With regard to crested dogstail, very little ox-eye is ever found in New-Zealand-grown seed, but that of European origin frequently contains quite appreciable quantities. For this reason alone it is far preferable to use local seed, apart from the fact that its germination is often much superior to that imported. In timothy ox-eye is a frequent impurity, and it appears extremely difficult to dress it out satisfactorily. The larger ox-eye seeds are fairly easy to remove, but a percentage of the smaller ones invariably remain in the line even after it has been carefully recleaned. About 15 per cent. of the timothy examined has been found to contain ox-eye, often in quite small amounts, but at times lines containing 2 or more per cent. by numbers have been received for analysis. Farmers and seed-merchants are urged to take great care when buying timothy-seed to ascertain whether or not it is quite free from this impurity. Yarrow frequently contains large amounts of ox-eye-daisy seed. In one instance no less than 21 per cent. of the sample consisted of this weed. Yarrow is, however, rarely used in New Zealand, and where it is used, except in the case of lawn mixtures, there is little danger of the weed becoming a nuisance, as the conditions under which it is used are not favourable for the spread of ox-eye.

Ox-eye-daisy seed is very distinct from any other seed impurity, and when once known can be easily recognized. However, when ox-eye is present in timothy care has to be taken to carefully look through the sample, as in colour the two seeds closely resemble each other, and it is liable to be overlooked by a mere superficial examination. In localities where ox-eye is abundant the mere sowing of pure seed will be no guarantee that none of the weed will appear, as it can apparently be blown considerable distances. No doubt travelling stock may aid in its distribution. I know that whenever ox-eye appears on newly grassed land the seed sown is invariably blamed, but a proper examination of the seed before sowing will always show whether or not ox-eye is present.

USING SEED CONTAINING A TRACE OF OX-EYE DAISY.

It is, of course, always preferable to use seed that is quite free from any ox-eye daisy, but the question arises whether it is always imperative to reject seed that contains only a trace of this impurity. A case in point has recently come under my notice. The seed contained approximately three seeds of ox-eye per pound, or one seed to every 170,000 seeds of the mixture. This quantity is so small that in European practice it would be deemed to be ox-eye-daisy-free. It is naturally