

**HAWERA.**—Rain fell on the 18th, after which the weather was showery and unsettled. Pastures are making a good recovery, and turnips, mangels, carrots, and other green crops are making excellent growth since the rains set in. Swedes are, so far, free from blight, but rot has appeared in a good many turnip crops of the soft varieties. The small areas of potatoes grown are yielding well, the tubers being sound and free from blight. All classes of stock are in good condition. Supplies at factories are still good, although a rapid falling-off must naturally soon be looked for.—*A. J. Glasson.*

**MANGAWEKA.**—Very warm weather was experienced during the early part of February. On the 21st instant a fair amount of rain fell, which was wanted to freshen up pastures and other crops. There is still an abundance of feed, and future prospects for farmers in this district are bright. Considering the dryness of the month, stock of all kinds are doing well.—*J. A. Melrose.*

**POVERTY BAY.**—The weather during February was exceptionally dry. Pastures of low-lying and coastal country are parched and scanty. On the higher bush land they are rather better, but large areas have been destroyed by very severe bush-fires, which swept away timber and grass. Numbers of sheep perished in the flames and smoke. In two instances the number is reported as high as 11,000 and 12,000. However, the ultimate benefit will more than repay the present loss, as a great area of very dirty country has been cleaned of rotting timber.—*William Ross.*

**WAIROA.**—Weather during the February period was very hot and dry, there being but two light rainfalls throughout the month. The root crops are showing the effects of the lengthened dry spell. There is still a sufficiency of feed on the hills, but the shortage of water is being seriously felt by the stock. The potato crop is not up to former standards, but the maize crop promises to yield well. Stock continue in good condition.—*T. F. Mullaly.*

**WAIPIKURAU.**—A very dry month. Bush and grass fires have done considerable damage, some settlers being left without any feed for stock. Houses and sheds in the Piripiri, Ruaroa, and Ruamati districts were burnt. Light showers fell on the 23rd and 24th, but were not heavy enough to do any appreciable good. Stock are looking fairly well.—*H. O. M. Christie.*

**PAHIATUA.**—Rainfall for the month, 1.27 in. on nine days, the heaviest fall being 0.28 in. on the 23rd February. Rainfall for month, 1912, 5.02 in., on ten days. The intermittent showers and the heavy dews have done a lot of good, giving the pastures a start, also all root crops. Referring to root crops, a settler in the Pongaroa district had a half-acre of Californian thistle, which was dug last spring, and swedes sown in November. He has fully 20 tons of turnips, and not a thistle to be seen on the patch.—*T. Bacon.*

**NORTH WAIRARAPA.**—The past month has been favourable, both from a pastoral and agricultural point of view—showers intermixed with warm weather, which had a beneficial effect on pastures. Turnips, rape, and all green crops have improved, except where the blight has completely destroyed the crops. Factory-suppliers state that the average is well maintained. Stock of all descriptions are looking well and, if this favourable weather continues, should winter well. Grain crops, by all accounts, are going to thresh out well up to the average.—*J. S. Rankin.*

**MASTERTON.**—We had exceptionally hot, dry weather during last month, and the pastures are very brown. On the 15th we had a touch of winter, and the Tararua were capped with snow. Rain fell on the 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, but did not improve the pastures much, though it did a great amount of good to rape and turnips. All grain crops have been harvested in good condition, the yield in oats so far being from 70 to 80 bushels. This, of course, is not equal to last year, when as high as 110 bushels was obtained, and 60 to 75 bushels for wheat. The wheat has not been threshed yet. Some good crops of swedes and mangels are noticeable in the district, and there are some very good crops of potatoes practically free from blight. The Hessian fly is reported to have done considerable damage in some parts of the district. Though some of the maize crops were sown late, they are looking well and promise good yields. There are some good crops of peas in most parts of the district. Tomato crops have been badly affected with blight, and only with persistent spraying have the larger crops been saved. All stock are looking very well. I have noticed in several parts of the district a blight—Californian-thistle rust (*Puccinia suaveolens*)—on this thistle. This prevents the thistle from seeding. Some landowners are endeavouring to spread it from one patch to the other.—*T. C. Webb.*

**SOUTH WAIRARAPA.**—The weather during the past month was seasonable, there having been refreshing rains, which has brought away fresh growth. Practically all