

OWAKA.—March was a most changeable month. There was not much rain, but showers were frequent, and this has retarded harvesting operations. There are some very fine crops of oats and turnips in the district, and rape is also looking well. Most of the potato crops are blighted and the yields will not come up to expectations. Pastures are satisfactory, and there is plenty of feed everywhere.—*R. McGillivray.*

TAPANUI.—During the early part of the month the weather was fair, enabling much of the grain to be stacked, and mills are now busy. Some of the best oat crops are yielding from 50 to 60 bushels, but the majority are very light. Wheat in most cases looks well. Turnips are still growing well, especially swedes, and no blight is noticeable. Blight on the potato crop is almost unknown in this district, but a very heavy frost on the morning of the 24th blackened the tops everywhere. It is not thought that much harm will result from this, as the tubers are well advanced. Extremely heavy rain started here on the evening of the 27th and continued steadily for over twenty-four hours, rivers and creeks being in high flood at time of writing.—*W. J. McCulloch.*

GORE.—During the greater part of the past month the weather was favourable, and farmers made good progress with the harvest. Pastures are holding out well, and turnips are looking splendid. On the evening of the 27th exceptionally heavy rain set in and continued for thirty hours without intermission, and in the early hours of Saturday morning came down one of the most disastrous floods in the history of this district. At present the damage to crops and other property can hardly be estimated. Paddocks of grain have disappeared, and also fences in some localities.—*B. Grant.*

LUMSDEN.—The weather for the month of March was very changeable. The first week was very wet, but was followed by some warm sunny days, and farmers were to be seen making the most of the fine weather, cutting and harvesting the crops. Towards the middle of the month we experienced several sharp frosts, which cut down a good number of the potato crops. On the 27th very heavy rain fell, causing the river to overflow, doing a tremendous amount of damage, the old settlers considering it the biggest flood known for the last thirty years. In most cases threshing returns are very light. Pastures were looking well until this recent flood. Turnip crops are very good.—*W. S. S. Cantrell.*

INVERCARGILL.—The country throughout this district begins to have a wintry appearance, grass paddocks are bare, and on some places turnips and rape are being eaten off. Harvest is dragging slowly on, owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Grain crops generally are light, but turnips and potatoes promise well. We have had a few sunny days this month, with a sharp frost on the night of the 23rd instant, the grass on the following morning being quite stiff and white. The rainfall was 7.34 in., which is very high for this season of the year, 2.69 in. having fallen in twenty-four hours on the 27th and 28th of the month, and the fall was much heavier inland, the result being that the biggest floods ever known to the oldest inhabitants of Southland were experienced on Saturday and Sunday last. Farmers on low-lying lands have suffered very severe losses, and railway traffic has been completely disorganized.—*J. R. Whyborn.*

OTAUTAU.—The weather for the month was anything but favourable for the farmers, harvesting being prolonged through constant wet weather. Some threshing is done, but results are poor compared with previous years. Rain commenced last night and continued throughout the whole night, the result being the heaviest flood ever known. So far I have not been able to ascertain the extent of the damage, but from what can be seen near at hand many thousands of pounds will be required to cover the loss.—*H. F. Dencker.*

QUEENSTOWN.—During the month the weather was very broken, and although a considerable number of wet days were experienced no great amount of rain fell until the 27th and 28th, when we had about twenty-six hours, swelling the rivers and lake, but no damage therefrom is so far reported in this district. We had frosts on the mornings of the 17th and 31st.—*A. Clarke.*

PEMBROKE.—The weather during the month was changeable, and at times very cold and stormy. The rainfall was exceptionally heavy and all rivers are in flood. Pastures, crops, &c., have come away well, the growth being very noticeable throughout the district.—*J. A. Griffith.*

Moisture in the soil is like money in the bank.