acre in order to secure a satisfactory crop. The calculation of the amount to sow based on weight, and not on numbers, is no more scientifically sound than would be the planting of an orchard by weight instead of by certain definite numbers. The only error that occurs in our method of calculating real value by numbers lies in the fact that it does not take into consideration the inorganic impurities, but these are rarely of sufficient moment in properly machine-dressed seed to in any way seriously prejudice the result. It can also be claimed that no undressed seed should really be used by a farmer, and that, so far as he is concerned, the Department looks with disfavour on the testing of undressed samples. Of course, with regard to the merchant dealing with seed in the rough, and wishing to know what loss will occur in bringing the seed up to a certain purity, germination, and weight, the European system for the determination of purity and germination has to be adopted; but these are cases which do not affect in any way the system that is being adopted for the testing of seed that is offered to the farmer for sale. Where a sample contains a good deal of inert matter in addition to foreign seeds, as is the case with the bent grasses and danthonia, it is often necessary to weigh this material separately, and when this occurs the real value by numbers cannot be given. In all cases, however, foreign seeds are calculated by numbers, and not by weight, as it is considered that, so far as purity is concerned, the essential feature to determine accurately is the kinds and actual number of the foreign seeds that are contained in a sample. The presence of inert matter, although it should lessen the price that is asked for any seed, does not prejudicially affect the seed after it is sown; and its determination, especially when not present in large quantities, is not of particular moment so far as the fitness of the sample for agricultural purposes is concerned.

"In Auckland there are 230 schools giving agricultural instruction (out of 594 schools and 108 part-time schools), and as this work was proving so satisfactory it had been decided to appoint another instructor." So said the Chairman of the Education Board (Mr. G. J. Garland) at the opening of the new Te Papapa School last week.—*New Zealand Graphic.*

No industry is so vital to the well-being of a nation as agriculture, and nothing is so vital to agriculture as the soil. How to use and not abuse the soil is the most important problem which faces the farmer of to-day—one worthy of the best efforts of our most profound and learned scientists, for upon its solution depends the future prosperity of the nation.—*Scientific American.*