

the subject that the area (so called) under cultivation is easily capable, under more intensive and thorough cultivation, of carrying at least 50 per cent. more sheep. Again, take the millions of acres of unoccupied lands in the North Island awaiting development, much of which will become ideal sheep-country, it is no optimistic prediction to assert that this country is easily capable of carrying not 24,000,000 but 50,000,000 sheep, and still provide excellent scope for the expansion of the dairy industry on the rich low lands less suitable for sheep but eminently adapted for dairying.

Much has been written concerning our great primary industries, all of which add more or less to the aggregate of the Dominion's wealth, but when the magnitude of the above figures is considered the sheep industry is seen to still command the leading position. The importance of this particular industry being manifest, it may be asked why so little literature of a practical nature is available for the guidance of those already engaged in it or those who contemplate taking it up. The answer is that the management of sheep is a business demanding experience combined with keen powers of observation and a natural intuition for it. Without the possession of these, any literature, no matter however practical, would possibly be more detrimental than advantageous. Further, the conditions appertaining to the management of sheep are so varied that, unless in answer to a specific question, nothing beyond generalities on the broadest lines can be given with safety.

#### NEW ZEALAND A NATURAL HABITAT OF THE SHEEP.

The remarkable success of the sheep industry in this country is due to several leading factors: the soil and climate are eminently suitable for sheep-breeding; the men who founded the industry, and have since controlled its destinies, have thoroughly understood it; and the discovery of artificial refrigeration made possible the exportation of meat, and thereby provided the final requirement to a successful enterprise.

#### THE MEN TO BE HONOURED.

In any reference to our great sheep industry the splendid foundation laid by our pioneers must not be overlooked. Of the work of establishing agriculture in New Zealand but few records have been handed down to us; but it is with pride we recall the fact that the founders of the agriculture of the Dominion were of the best blood of the Old Land. They brought with them not only a knowledge of how to till the soil, but that inherited love for live-stock, and skill in breeding it, which is one of the traditions of the British race. They possessed the