

characters which have made British farmers the stud-masters of the world. Men of all branches of the British race have contributed to the building-up of New Zealand agriculture, but if there is one type which deserves more than passing reference it is the Scottish shepherd. Some of the finest flocks and herds developed in this country owe their pre-eminence to the fact that the owners were, or had the assistance of, men who had herded sheep on the hills and in the glens of Scotland, and to this day these Scottish breeders hold a dominant position in the live-stock world of the Dominion.

#### WHAT DECADENCE OR IMPROVEMENT MEANS.

As an illustration of the importance and extent of the industry and what its progress or decadence means not only to those directly interested, but to the community generally, it might be pointed out that in wool alone an increase of production of 1 lb. of wool per sheep, at 9d. per pound, represents a sum of £862,500, to which may be added as a sequence of the improved productive power a corresponding improvement in quality representing, say, 1½d. per pound, which, based on an average clip of 7 lb. of wool, would give a further increase of £1,006,250, making a total of nearly £2,000,000 sterling to the credit of the producers. On the other hand, a decadence means a corresponding deficit. While admitting that a united and fairly strenuous effort may be necessary to accomplish the former, it would require no great mismanagement or length of time to accomplish the latter. Briefly, it is possible through wool alone, without increasing our present numbers of sheep, to affect the financial position of the country by nearly £4,000,000 sterling per annum, by either attaining a reasonable maximum production on the one hand, or an easily attainable decadence on the other.

#### FLOCKS A CREDIT TO THE DOMINION.

At no previous time have the leading stud flocks of the Dominion attained a higher standard of excellence than obtains at the present time. A visit to a few of the principal agricultural and pastoral shows will satisfy the most critical judge that in no industry in this, or perhaps any other, country do those concerned know their business better than a very large proportion of New Zealand stud-sheep breeders; and to further realize the energy of stud-sheep breeders in maintaining the high standard of their stock one has only to observe the continuous importations into the Dominion of the very best blood from Great Britain; and to further safeguard this branch of the industry the New Zealand sheep-breeders' associations are doing excellent work. It is held by some that the good work done by the associations is