

days, which should tend to freshen up all pastures. There is a fair amount of autumn feed sown, and it is looking well. Probably there is more sown this season on account of the turnip crop being a partial failure. There is a fair amount of ground ploughed, and farmers are taking advantage of the fine weather to work their ground and thus destroy the weeds. The milk-yield is decreasing, as is to be expected at this season of the year. Stock, however, are looking well. I notice stacks of ensilage dotted throughout the district.—*J. S. Rankin.*

WELLINGTON.—April opened rather unpromisingly, with blustering gales and rain, but towards the middle of the month a welcome change occurred. Up to the 29th, beautiful, calm, warm days were the rule, with slight frosts inland. Full advantage was taken of the calm spell to push on with all farming-work. Pastures are excellent for the time of year, and autumn-sown crops are coming away well. All descriptions of stock are doing satisfactorily.—*G. H. Jenkinson.*

BLENHEIM.—At the commencement of the month there were two or three hard frosts, after which the weather was fine, rain being badly needed. Strong gales of wind were experienced about the middle of the month, doing a good deal of damage in parts of the district to property, trees, hay, and corn-stacks.—*F. H. Brittain.*

WESTLAND.—The month of April was somewhat more pleasant than for some considerable time past; but, being late in the season, there is not much likelihood of continual fine weather, although the winter months on the West Coast seem as a rule to be more settled than in summer-time, the days being fine and bright, with cold frosty nights. This, however, does not apply to every season, and rain takes the place of fine weather for the greater part of the year, which is a considerable drawback to those on the land, hindering them in every possible way from following their pursuits to the best advantage.—*H. J. Walton.*

KAIKOURA.—Pastures are still good, and there is sufficient feed about for stock. Autumn-sown oats for green feed and root crops for winter feed are coming on well. We had three or four fairly sharp frosts about the beginning of the month, but these did not check the growth of grass. Throughout the month ideal late autumn weather prevailed.—*W. S. Goodall.*

ROTHERHAM.—The weather during April was somewhat mixed. During the first few days there was heavy rain, with snow very low down on the ranges. Then very severe frosts were experienced, and these were followed by mild weather, which was most favourable for all kinds of green feed and for pastures. Farmers are now busy getting their crops in. A large area is to be put under wheat and oats this year. Threshing operations are almost completed. Yields, upon the whole, are poor. On the Cheviot Settlement one farmer had a paddock (12 acres) of Pearly White wheat, which yielded 60 bushels per acre—a record for the district. Potatoes are now being dug, but yields are poor. High prices are ruling for fat lambs and also for young ewes.—*W. M. Munro.*

RANGIORA.—April was a very calm month, but there were two strong north-west gales during the second week. The rainfall was 1.96 in. There were three slight frosts during the month, and a heavy one of 5° on the 9th. There are still a lot of potatoes to be lifted. Crops are not as large as those of last year. I have had several inquiries about silver-beet, and I think there will be a big demand for seed next year owing to its being able to resist the frosts.—*A. Hughes.*

LINCOLN.—The weather during April was, generally speaking, cold for the time of year, but there were also a few really beautiful days. A good rain fell on the 13th. Throughout the month plough teams were busy, and farm-work is well advanced. A fair acreage is now almost ready for the sowing of wheat and barley. Potato crops are being dug, and in some instances are yielding well. Turnips will provide a fair amount of winter feed, but in places have suffered from the diamond-back moth. Feed in the pastures is still fairly abundant, though much of it now is very dry.—*J. G. Scott.*

ASHBURTON.—Splendid weather was experienced during the month, only 1.75 points being recorded, as against 4.16 for the corresponding month last year. Sheep have fattened well. Very little snow is on the ranges. In the back country the farmers are now mustering, to put their sheep on safe country. The sheep are being brought in in excellent condition.—*C. Branigan.*

FAIRLIE.—A fine open month; everything doing well. Farmers are making good use of the good weather, and a deal of autumn sowing has been done. There appears to be a shortage of draught horses in this district. At a clearing-sale recently held, horses from eight years old and upwards realized £40 and over, yearlings up to £25, and foals up to £12. Cattle are bringing good prices, especially young animals, yearlings being sold up to £3 11s., and fat cows up to £9 10s.—*W. B. Manning.*