

latter place is noted for its root crops, and in past seasons hundreds of cattle have been winter-fattened there. This season the number will be very small. All stock are in fair condition.—*Hugh A. Munro.*

OWAKA.—Good weather was experienced in April, which enabled the farmers to get their crops stacked. The mills are now at work, and most of the yields are satisfactory. Turnips have done well, and there are some extremely nice crops to be seen. The potatoes are of fairly good quality, but the returns will not be heavy. Grass is holding out well, and there is a lot of rough feed for the winter.—*R. McGillivray.*

LUMSDEN.—During the month of April extreme conditions of weather were experienced. The first week exceptionally heavy and continuous rain fell for a couple of days, and the most severe flood on record in this district resulted. During the last fortnight the weather has been very good—clear, warm, genial days allowing the farmers to renew their harvesting. Turnips have suffered by the recent floods. The yield of oats and wheat will be light. A sharp shock of earthquake was felt on the 26th.—*W. S. S. Cantrell.*

INVERCARGILL.—The weather during the past month was changeable. Towards the end of the month there was a week's fine weather, which gave farmers an opportunity of getting in a good amount of crop. A few more fine days and the last of the grain should be gathered. There have been few frosts during the month. Although grass is getting scarce just now, the turnip crops are good. Potatoes promise well, being fairly free from blight.—*J. R. Whyborn.*

OTAUTAU.—The weather for the month was an improvement on that of the previous month. Some fine sunny days were experienced, also a few heavy frosts. The pastures are not feeding as well as might be, owing to their washy nature. Harvest is not yet finished, though farmers are availing themselves of every chance. Threshing is in progress, the yields not being up to previous years. Turnip crops are not showing as well at the bottoms as was expected by the top growth. Potatoes are being dug, and some good yields have been obtained. These are fairly free from blight.—*H. F. Dencker.*

QUEENSTOWN.—The weather was somewhat broken at the beginning of the month and up till about the 12th. Nice settled weather, with light frosts at night and beautiful sunshine during the day, prevailed since that time. This was welcomed by the farmers, as quite a number had crops still in stock, and in some cases these have yet to be cut. Turnips and potatoes are turning out fairly good, and feed for winter promises well.—*A. Clarke.*

PEMBROKE.—The weather-conditions during April were very unsettled. The first week was very cold and stormy, and several light coverings of snow fell on the higher country. The second week was much milder, and farming operations were less difficult to carry out. Cold stormy weather was again the order for the next few days, after which the frosts became more marked, with the days bright and sunny. The winter outlook at present appears bright. There is no shortage of feed. Winged thistles are very plentiful.—*J. A. Griffith.*

THE FRUIT CROP.

THE officers of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division report as follows on the condition of the fruit crop at the end of April:—

WHANGAREI.—Apples, only very late varieties; lemons, fair to medium; pears, nearly finished; oranges, falling badly on the volcanic soil, especially sweet varieties.—*J. W. Collard.*

AUCKLAND NORTH.—Apples, late varieties only, good crop; lemons, looking well, good prices; pears, good crop, nearly over; tomatoes practically finished.—*W. C. Thompson.*

AUCKLAND SOUTH.—Apples, only late varieties left, fair crop; pears, almost done; nectarines, crop finished; peaches, crop finished; tomatoes, nearly all done, now being out by frost.—*N. R. Pierce.*