

the eradication of the fern must be sooner accomplished than if burning is delayed. This system was in past times extensively followed by the late Archdeacon Williams on the east coast of the North Island; but, of course, the practice is unusual. The reason is obvious. In general, midsummer sowing of surface-sown grass is not likely to be uniformly successful, and heavily stocking a bad take of grass punishes the stock too much for such an operation to be entertained at the present day. Thus autumn burning not earlier than the end of February can be looked upon as the general practice for surface-sown fern-lands.

On fern-land that is ploughed the burning often takes place earlier, and the ground is stocked for a few days after the young fern appears after ploughing, the ground being thereby consolidated before the seed is sown in the autumn. On fern capable of being ploughed this operation should always be carried out and the land worked up in the ordinary manner. Many consider disking is preferable. It certainly has the merit of cheapness, and the cutting of the fern "root" is also highly desirable. Ploughing and disking, however, would be better. Where land cannot be ploughed the seed should be sown after the land has been somewhat consolidated by rain, or a temporary stocking to harden the ground should take place.

#### THE SEED MIXTURE.

In certain cases on a first-ploughed fern-burn turnips are sown, and at times even two successive crops are taken off before the ground is laid down to grass. Such methods, however, are applicable only on land where the fern is not particularly vigorous. I am inclined to think that in nearly all instances on ploughed fern-land a seeding with a temporary grass mixture is preferable to immediate conversion into permanent pasture. This is now a regular practice, and the mixture used should consist of about 15 lb. Italian rye-grass, 8 lb. cow-grass, 2 lb. white clover or alsike, and perhaps a little cocksfoot. In a couple of seasons under cattle-stocking such a pasture will be almost entirely cow-grass, and a preliminary crop of this description leaves the ground in excellent condition for the later permanent mixture sowing, and also even for the production of annual crops, both of a forage or cereal nature. The permanent mixture may be sown after the ploughing of the clover sod, but excellent results also follow harrowing the clover in the autumn and sowing almost immediately after. The temporary clover may remain from two to six years before being resown, its duration depending entirely on the condition of the pasture when the permanent mixture is sown. As much as 30 lb. of seed