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**FACTORS AFFECTING METHODS OF FARM-
MANAGEMENT IN THE NORTH ISLAND.**

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SOIL-FERTILITY.

THE attention of many farmers may have been arrested by two diagrams among the exhibits of the Department of Agriculture at the winter shows this year. These diagrams are a modification of what is known as the "soil-fertility barrel." The barrel is made up of staves of unequal lengths, and each stave represents some factor, such as lime, humus, nitrogen, texture, and so on, which has the effect of limiting the fertility of a particular soil to the extent to which it may be deficient in that soil. The analogy is not altogether a true one, but it serves to impress upon the mind in a graphic manner the fact that, no matter how well constituted a soil may be in all other respects, if one factor be lacking or deficient, productiveness is proportionately diminished. For example, if humus be lacking the