

marvellous, and the best of permanent pastures can be obtained on land that previously would not hold grass for a few years. In speaking of these results, it must be understood that the land has first been effectively drained and the suitable grasses are growing in the soil. Top-dressing in the manner stated will enormously stimulate the growth of grasses and clover, but will not create them. In top-dressing with phosphatic manures the lime should always come first, and if the available funds are limited they should all be spent on lime till 2 tons per acre are supplied. If further improvement is wanted, then apply the phosphatic manure.

CONCLUSION.

I said at the outset that I was speaking of conditions as I have found them in Southland and south Otago. Whether these conditions apply to other parts of New Zealand can best be found out by farmers experimenting for themselves. Mr. William Perry, of Penrose, Masterton, tells me that he has now limed about 500 acres with satisfactory results, but he is here to-day, and will, I have no doubt, give you his experience if you ask him. Were I farming in any part of New Zealand I should certainly try lime. I was once travelling through one of the most fertile districts in the North Island; the season was good, and the country looked lovely, and I expressed my admiration to the local resident who was showing me round. "Yes," he replied, "it is a splendid country. The Lord does the work for us here. All you have to do is not to interfere with Him." This statement may be true of some parts of the Dominion, but I know in the South the Lord only helps those who help themselves, and He gives help in double measure to those who lime. From my experience I would try to tempt Him with lime, no matter what part of New Zealand I was farming in.

