

on throughout New Zealand must not be allowed to lapse. I think, however, that to a large extent it should be redirected, and the change, to my mind, should be in the direction of reducing the co-operative experiments carried out by farmers on their farms in favour of an extension of experimental substations of the type of Ashburton, although perhaps on a smaller scale, and in the establishment of experimental areas, associated with district high schools or elsewhere, in conjunction with local agricultural committees. Time has demonstrated that the attainment of trustworthy results from experimental work involves a sacrifice which not one farmer in a thousand is prepared to make. There must be a close attention to detail, and an exactitude in carrying out the work in all stages, which the private farmer cannot properly undertake. Inevitably there comes a time when it is a question of proper attention to the experiment or a loss in connection with the other crops on the farm. Needless to say, the experiment suffers. Experiments must necessarily be conducted regardless of the profit to be derived from the produce of the experiments, and when that fact is brought home to a farmer his interest in experimental work, as an undertaking by himself, ceases. Certain kinds of trial work, such as variety-testing and trials of manures, when conducted on a reasonable scale, are possible to the private farmer without unduly interfering with his ordinary farm-work, and these experiments should be continued, limiting the number undertaken in any district, and increasing the size of the plots to an extent which would warrant the trouble of separate threshing in the case of cereals, or feeding off the plots individually, and thus obtaining proper records in the case of forage crops.

The local agricultural committees should be in a position to help the Department to carry out such experiments in a feasible way, and although they have not so far had an opportunity of rendering any considerable amount of service in this direction, it is hoped that as matters are now on a better footing in the Department itself progress may be made. The fact that local experimental work in Great Britain has been undertaken mainly on the co-operative principle with success is no criterion for its success here, for the work in the Old Country has been undertaken to a large extent by the "home" or "estate" farms, with all their conveniences and plentiful supply of labour, and by patrons of agriculture, who are similarly well placed for carrying out the work. As I have hinted, it is probable that experimental work, requiring great care and attention to detail, will have to be undertaken at the substations and experimental areas, but as to the exact basis of working these I have no official authority for