

## HOW BLACKLEG WAS INTRODUCED INTO NEW ZEALAND.

There is good reason to believe that the use of non-sterilized imported bone manure in years past is responsible for blackleg gaining a foothold in this country. In Taranaki, so long ago as 1889, isolated cases were found in a small area where this fertilizer had been used, and for several years no cases outside this area were noted. Then the disease began to spread rapidly, and it became necessary to take proper measures to get it under control. These measures have proved remarkably satisfactory and effective. In the Auckland affected areas no doubt the same original cause has operated, and there is reason to believe that isolated cases, not recognized at the time as being blackleg, occurred several years ago in the Waikato. Certainly there is no evidence to show that the disease spread to there from Taranaki—in fact, the distance between the two districts and the time necessarily occupied by cattle travelling between them would practically preclude the possibility of this, seeing that calves infected when leaving Taranaki would be dead long before they could get anywhere near the Waikato. Imported bone manure is no longer able to cause trouble through this disease, as its sterilization before shipment has been compulsory since 1905, and the effectiveness of the sterilizing process is ensured by it being carried out under the direct supervision of Inspectors appointed by the New Zealand Government.

## SPREAD OF THE DISEASE.

The principal methods by which the disease is spread may be summarized as follows:—

(1.) Movement of young stock from farm to farm, either through saleyards or direct. Striking instances have lately occurred in the Auckland District, where the disease has been introduced to previously clean farms through the medium of calves bought in the saleyard.

(2.) Failure to properly bury or otherwise completely destroy the carcasses of young cattle dead from blackleg. This not only infects the soil where the carcass lies, but allows dogs and hawks, by feeding upon the carcass, to spread the infection. They do not themselves become affected, but they act as carriers.

## SYMPTOMS.

The most characteristic symptom is an extensive swelling of one fore or one hind quarter, combined with very definite symptoms of ill health, the animal being dull, feverish, and off feed, with loss of