

2. Ephos phosphate 4 cwt., sulphate of potash  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., sulphate of ammonia  $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt., all per acre. Weight (roots only), 36.28 tons per acre.

3. Ephos phosphate 4 cwt., sulphate of ammonia  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., sulphate of potash  $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt., nitrate of soda (applied as a top-dressing) 1 cwt., all per acre. Weight (roots only), 67.14 tons per acre.

4. Superphosphate 2 cwt., Ephos phosphate 2 cwt., sulphate of potash  $\frac{1}{2}$  cwt., sulphate of ammonia  $\frac{1}{4}$  cwt., all per acre. Weight (roots only), 66.54 tons per acre.

The nitrate of soda in trial No. 3 was applied on a showery day, the date being 21st December. The cost of manure in this plot was 16s. over that of No. 2, but, as shown, the increase in the crop was 30.86 tons per acre. From the trials one would infer that Ephos phosphate is too slow-acting for mangels, but the result of a single test must not be regarded as conclusive.—  
*T. W. Lonsdale, Manager, Moumahaki Experimental Farm.*

## THE FIRST HUMBLE-BEES IN NEW ZEALAND.

MR. I. HOPKINS, formerly Apiarist in the Department, forwards the following note:—

When writing Bulletin No. 46, the "History of the Humble-bee in New Zealand," for the Department of Agriculture I mentioned on page 7 (subject to correction) that some bees which had been imported by a lady were liberated by a resident at Timaru in 1883. I did not know to whom or where to apply for particulars, so left it an open question; but I am now in possession of the facts, which I came across in the American *Beekeepers' Exchange* for June, 1881, when looking through an old volume of that journal for something else. It is a reprint from the *Timaru Herald* of the 7th February, 1881, and its record will make the history complete. The account runs as follows:—

"The two humble-bee queens, the survivors of a shipment of eighteen consigned to Mrs. Belfield, were turned out on Mr. Bristol's farm on Saturday morning. They were strong and healthy, and flew away briskly against the wind. Being liberated amidst clover-fields, there is every chance of their doing well. Some years ago the present Premier of New Zealand attempted the introduction of these useful insects, the last of the creatures dying when within ten days' sail of our coast.

"Not being aware of any successful attempt at their acclimatization being made before, we believe the pair of queens set free on Saturday have the honour of being the first of the kind in the country. The thanks of the farmer are specially due to the lady who, when in London