

CONTROL OF TUTU AND BUSH-LAWYER, ETC.

"OVERRUN," Roxburgh :—

You would be rendering me considerable assistance by giving information on the following :—

1. Tutu : Any method of dealing with it on a large scale on a run, or minimizing its bad effects.
2. Bush-lawyer : Also any method of dealing with it on a very large scale on a run. Sheep continually get hung up in it.
3. A handy torch for burning on a large scale.

The Fields Division :—

1. Tutu is very difficult to eradicate. After cutting, the underground stems rapidly shoot up again. If there is only a small quantity to deal with, grubbing the plants may be undertaken, but where present on a large scale, cutting and burning is the only method to adopt. On heavily stocked ground tutu may be crushed out, but of course strange stock will suffer. After burning, grass-seed should be sown, because when there is an abundance of young grass tutu is generally not eaten.

2. Cutting and burning is the only method to adopt with bush-lawyer. Spraying with some poisonous mixture might be tried, but would probably be too expensive and then not effective, so it could not be advised.

3. There are some torches for burning on the market, but none are a success, mostly on account of expense. The best way is to have a rough torch of rags or bagging soaked in kerosene or fat.

ABERDEEN-ANGUS BEEF.

"TASSY," Smithton, Tasmania :—

Does the Aberdeen-Angus and its crosses make a suitable and profitable carcass for export purposes? Is there any objection to the yellow-coloured fat?

The Live-stock Division :—

There is nothing better for export purposes than an Aberdeen-Angus cross, either with Shorthorn or Hereford. The yellow-coloured fat referred to must be due to some other cause, as it is certainly in no way due to this particular breed of cattle.

LUCERNE-GROWING FOR HARD-PAN CONDITIONS.

S. HAROLD WILSON, Waituna, Waimate :—

Would you advise me as to the method of growing lucerne on a cold soil with a hard subsoil?

The Fields Division :—

A cold soil with a hard subsoil is not suited for successfully growing lucerne. However, if you care to try the crop you could prepare a small area on the following lines: Assuming that the surface soil has previously been in potatoes, roots, or some other cleaning crop, plough with a single-furrow plough about 6 in. deep in the opposite direction to the last ploughing, and in every furrow use another single-furrow plough with the mouldboard removed and with the wing of the share knocked off. This tears up the more or less stiff subsoil. Having thus ploughed and subsoiled your ground, apply 1 to 1½ tons of ground burnt lime per acre, and work this in with the disk and tine harrows. The growing of a crop of peas and ploughing this under will be of decided benefit on your type of land. The lucerne could be sown in about a month after turning under the peas. When working up the land for the crop of lucerne apply about 3 cwt. per acre of soil that has already grown the crop successfully. Apply and work this in with the harrows in the evening when the light is obscure or during an overcast day. As manure for the peas use 1 cwt. basic superphosphate and 1 cwt. blood-and-bone manure, applied the same day as mixed. When sowing the lucerne apply 2 cwt. basic superphosphate—assuming that you have previously manured the peas. The Partridge or the Prussian Blue pea would be suitable. We would advise your trying for a start not more than 1 acre of lucerne, for which you will require 15 lb. to 20 lb. per acre of Marlborough-grown (colonial) seed. We are afraid, however, that the iron-stone pan which exists at Waituna will interfere with the successful growth of the crop.