

## THE HAWKE'S BAY FARMING DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION.

### A GOOD MODEL ORGANIZATION.

G. T. DE S. BAYLIS, Fields Supervisor, Napier.

AFTER a considerable amount of preliminary organization work a very promising joint movement for agricultural advancement has recently taken concrete shape in this district under the name of the Hawke's Bay Farming Development Association.

The new organization is designed to work locally in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, and incidentally will supersede the system of small co-operative experiments conducted by the Department with individual farmers. The main objective of the association is greater agricultural development and production. Although incidentally it must do a great deal of experimenting, the association does not exist primarily for making experiments, but for the purpose of encouraging by demonstration and assistance the greater development of the agricultural and pastoral resources of the district.

The contributing bodies are the Hawke's Bay County Council, the Waipawa County Council, the Waipukurau County Council, the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Society, the Provincial Executive of the Farmers' Union, and the Napier Harbour Board. Each of these bodies contributes to the funds of the association, and each supplies two delegates for the General Committee, one of which delegates is also on the executive. The Department has agreed to subsidize the operations on certain defined lines.

#### INITIAL OPERATIONS.

The association is starting operations upon an area at Waipukurau to test the grazing value and money value of top-dressing old pasture. On the Ruataniwha Plains, Takapau, the operation of an area is being undertaken with a view to the increase of the carrying-capacity of the plains by the utilization of lucerne and other forage crops as assistance to the pasture. Records are to be kept showing the cost of grazing and the stock carried. An area of grass plots to demonstrate the character and value of varieties of grasses will also be established here. At Rissington a fairly extensive area of grass plots will be laid down. At Patoka somewhat larger plots are to be laid down to test grass varieties suitable to the light pumice land of northern Hawke's Bay. Also an area will be prepared for