

but it is better to spray than risk losing a large part of the crop. If the season proves to be dry blight may not be troublesome, but it is a gamble to trust to the weather, as it cannot be foretold. The first spraying should precede the first moulding, so that all the haulm may be covered; after that spray each fortnight, unless heavy rain washes the mixture off, in which case the operation should be repeated as soon as the rain is over. Lime-bordeaux consists of 4 lb. bluestone and 4 lb. fresh lime in 40 gallons water. Suspend the bluestone in canvas in a barrel containing 20 gallons of water. Slack the lime with a little water, then make up to 20 gallons. Pour the lime-water slowly into the bluestone-water, stirring all the time. This order of mixing must not be reversed. Five pounds of washing-soda may take the place of 4 lb. of lime. For small quantities use 1 lb. bluestone and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lb. soda to 10 gallons water.

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### KING ISLAND MELILOTUS-SEED FOR DISTRIBUTION.

MR. J. W. POYNTON, S.M., Palmerston North, writes to the Editor as follows:—

"I forward herewith a package of King Island melilotus-seed (obtained from Australia). It was formerly known as *M. officinalis*, but is now definitely recognized as *Melilotus parviflora*. It floated ashore on King Island, near Tasmania, in Bass Strait, in the stuffing of a mattress from a wreck, and spread over the wastes of white sand on the island, converting them into valuable pastures. The plant gave humus to the sand and, being a legume, enriched the soil with nitrates. It has since been used with success in reclaiming sand areas on the Victorian coast. I suggest you offer through the *Journal* to send small packets of the seed to settlers on our west coast from Paekakariki to New Plymouth. On this stretch the sea-sands in many places are encroaching on good land. If the plant succeeds in spreading here as it did at King Island and in Victoria it will be of much value to New Zealand. The seed should be soaked well in water before sowing."

Mr. Poynton's gift has been accepted with appreciation, and the distribution of the seed will be made from Weraroa. Applications from settlers in the district mentioned should be addressed to the Director of the Fields Division, Central Development Farm, Weraroa.

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### THE MEAT-EXPORT POSITION.

At a meeting of the Board of Agriculture held early in the current month the question of shipping and storage space for meat and dairy-produce was discussed with the Hon. W. D. S. MacDonald, Minister of Agriculture, who was present. It was pointed out that, although the latest sheep returns show a large increase in the North Island, there has been a heavy mortality amongst hoggets, and the lambing in many districts is much below the average, which would probably do away with a considerable percentage of the surplus. The Board, however, thought it would be in the interests of the country that farmers be advised that, owing to the shortage of shipping, it would probably not be practicable to freeze and find space for all the stock available, and that they be urged to provide winter feed wherever possible to rear any lambs that might be left over. It was also decided to recommend that farmers should retain the best of their long-woolled ewe lambs for breeding purposes; also that arrangements should be made to tin a number of second-class fat old ewes, and in order that this might be done to request the Government to make inquiries as to the possibility of securing a good supply of British or American tinplates for the purpose. The Board also recommended that to ensure the freezing-space being occupied to the fullest extent with the primest meat it was desirable that the Inspectors passing the meat purchased by the Imperial Government should be more strict as to the quality, so that only finished animals should be killed and shipped.