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THE LAYING-DOWN OF PASTURES.

MEASURES FOR PRESENT ABNORMAL CONDITIONS.

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THE price of nearly all grass and clover seed used in the laying-down of pastures is to-day considerably higher than it has ever been in the history of New Zealand. Even before the war there had been a gradual increase in the price of certain of our most widely used pasture seeds. At the present time, with the exception of crested dogstail and Chewings fescue, the whole of our main grass and clover seeds show an increase of from 50 to over 100 per cent. above pre-war prices. Had the increase in prices been restricted only to what may be termed the minor ingredients of mixtures, of which only from 1 lb. to 3 lb. per acre of any variety is used, the position would not have been so serious. It is, however, the great increase in the price of the two most largely used grasses—namely, rye-grass and cocksfoot—that has had the most serious effect in the rise in cost of grass-