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SEED-TESTING.

THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL SYSTEM.

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OFFICIAL seed-testing is by no means an innovation in the history of agricultural progress. Over forty years ago official seed-testing stations were in operation on the Continent of Europe. Ireland has been testing seeds for sixteen years, Scotland for six years, and in 1917 Great Britain, as a war measure, established a station and issued an Order for the compulsory testing of the main agricultural seeds used within its borders.

The seed-testing station of the New Zealand Department of Agriculture has now been established for ten years, but so far no enactment has been passed making seed-testing compulsory in the Dominion. The necessity for compulsory testing has been obviated to a large extent by the seed-merchants themselves recognizing the necessity of knowing the quality of the goods they are offering. In the main it is the high-grade or larger merchant who forwards seeds for test, and it seems feasible to conclude that if these merchants are unable to satisfactorily fix the quality of their seeds the smaller merchant with