Ensilage-making affords an economical means of conserving surplus feed produced in seasons of good rainfall, for use during winter or during dry seasons that follow. In Australia ensilage has been kept for a period of ten years, and at the end of that period was still palatable and otherwise satisfying to stock. Such conserved fodder is of special value to prevailingly or seasonally dry sections of the country. The extensive practice of this principle of surplus-feed conservation and the adoption of ensilage-making generally in districts unsuited for haymaking thus present further means of increasing the country's agricultural output.

Summer forage—in the form of maize, millets, sorghums, oats and vetches, or oats and peas — serves to materially supplement the pasture when dried up somewhat in late summer and early autumn. This provision of abundance of succulent green feed for cutting and carting out to dairy cattle tends to keep up the milk-yield, and hence, if generally carried out, will considerably augment the output of dairy products throughout the Dominion. Lucerne produces the same stimulating effect, and is of great value in feeding in any form to all live-stock, summer or winter. The growing of this fodder wherever possible throughout the country will vastly increase agricultural production, so palatable and nutritious is it to all kinds of farm animals. Its perennial supply of the most nourishing of animal-foods, when once the crop is established, and its suitability for providing feed in form of pasture, green feed, hay, and ensilage, render it easily the most valuable forage crop in the agricultural world. Where lucerne cannot be grown successfully red clover can be substituted, also with excellent results.

## IMPROVEMENT OF DAIRY HERDS.

The culling-out of the poor producers of milk—low in quantity and quality—in our dairy herds by means of systematic testing will, if generally adopted by dairy-farmers, enormously increase the output of dairy-products. The breeding from none but good sires of recognized milk-producing strains, and mated with dairy herds from whence the poor producers had been culled, would also have very far-reaching effects upon the future of the industry. This phase of agricultural improvement is, however, so consistently presented in the *Journal* that no more than a passing allusion to it is here necessary.

## CONCLUSION.

The field for agricultural education is vast. Improved methods, based on scientific principles, are needed even in this land favoured so much by the gifts of nature. Indeed, these very gifts to some extent stand in the way of the ready adoption of modern methods of proven value in the scientific and agricultural worlds. Time will assuredly see the general adoption in New Zealand of principles and practice known to be raising the standard of agriculture of other countries. Knowing, however, from the experience of older countries what agricultural losses intervene when constructive methods are deferred for adoption during the later stages of development of a new country, all concerned may be urged to bend their energies towards an earlier attainment of the desired end.