

Whangarei.—Less number being kept, owing to good prices being obtained for calves. As the price of the latter is on the down grade it is anticipated that more attention will now be given to the pig industry.

Stratford.—Less number being kept, owing to the manufacture of casein and cheese, the by-products of these being practically valueless as feed.

Nelson.—Less number being kept. It is anticipated that the number will increase, as calves are not likely to become more valuable than at present. The manufacture of cheese is also against pig-rearing.

Chatham Islands.—Pigs are kept for local consumption only.

Masterton.—Decided decrease in number kept, due to increased cost of suitable feed and to good prices being realized for calves. As the price for these is not keeping up it is expected that more attention will be given to pig-breeding.

Hokitika.—About the same number being kept. The climate in this district is not suitable for pig-breeding, and pig-feed is very dear. The facilities for sending pigs to market are not good, and the local demand is limited.

A CASE OF FAULTY CALF-MANAGEMENT.

A GOOD example of trouble among calves owing to failure to realize and carry out simple factors in good management came under notice last month. A settler in a North Island district wrote for advice regarding mortality among his weaner calves, certain symptoms, such as a dry cough, in the affected animals being described. The calves in general were stated to be in "excellent condition," and running in a hillside paddock with "good feed and good pure water springs." As the trouble appeared to be due to some cause which could be ascertained only on the spot the district Stock Inspector was directed to visit the farm and look into the matter. His report speaks for itself, as follows:—

"The owner is a dairy-farmer who raises thirty or forty calves each year. The calves are raised on whey. At weaning-time he has been in the habit of turning the calves out into the particular 30-acre paddock where the mortality has occurred. Asked why another paddock had not been used, the reply was made that they did not want to spread 'the disease.' The mortality consists of three calves last year and three so far this year. I made a careful examination of the paddock, in which I found about twenty calves running. The land is rough and the pasture coarse and innutritious, consisting mainly of native grasses, utuwai, fern, and cocksfoot. The water-supply, which is not good, consists of two small sluggish streams in the bottom of boggy gullies, whilst the favourite drinking-place appeared to be a shallow pool of still water, in which the calves puddled and dunged. No recent deaths had taken place, so I could make no post-mortem examination. I made a careful inspection, however, of the calves in the paddock, and whilst the majority were in fair order there were three or four looking very dull and listless, with staring coats, pot-bellied, and visible mucous membranes pale. When disturbed each had a frequent short husky cough. I concluded that the condition was due to parasitic bronchitis, and have accordingly advised the owner how to treat the affected animals, and to move the stock to a fresh paddock where there is a pure water-supply and a more nutritious pasture."