

loss of crops or stock. Then, again, meteorologists of wide and long experience tell us that the seasons in New Zealand come in cycles, occupying approximately seven years from one extreme in the cycle to the other extreme. Thus we have series of more or less dry years at the one extreme and series of more or less wet years at the other extreme, with gradations of good years, not too wet nor too dry, in between. Recognition of this phenomenon, and close observation of seasonal variation extending over at least fourteen years, should enable the farmer, especially in certain situations, to guard against loss by shaping his farming methods and systems in accordance therewith. Crop rotations, cultural methods, and crop-storage operations could be adopted to meet effectively the requirements necessitated by meteorological changes—one period compared with another period within the cycle.

KNOWLEDGE AND ITS APPLICATION.

Lack of knowledge is a limiting factor of some importance associated with profitable farming. Every business demands knowledge and careful training if the individual is to make a success of that business. Yet for the intricate business of successful farming, demanding as it does wide knowledge and proper training, some people think that any one—whether schooled or unschooled, trained or untrained—is fitted to successfully engage in it. Modern farming demands some knowledge of a number of sciences, some knowledge of business, and actual experience with the various operations carried out on farms. Indeed, it has been said that a 200-acre farm provides satisfactory scope for the exercise of every faculty man possesses. It is therefore incumbent upon all connected with present-day farming, or those contemplating a farming career, to avail themselves of every possible means of obtaining reliable knowledge connected with the business. They cannot obtain too much learning in this most intricate and widest of all businesses, and, no matter how extensive their knowledge and experience in it, there is always something for them to learn. Just as knowledge is at the foundation of a successful commercial undertaking, so it is the basis of successful farming. A mind well supplied with detailed information connected with its business is equipped to intelligently engage in that business—be it farming, commerce, or manufacturing—and to better command success therein. With the spread of up-to-date knowledge of agriculture will come better farming, and consequently an ever-increasing agricultural production.

Highly important as is the possession of up-to-date knowledge of agriculture, it is more important that those connected with farming should possess the capacity for making practical application of useful knowledge when they acquire it. The two are so interdependent that success can be obtained only when they are both possessed to a degree by the farmer; and the individual possession of this power of application removes a limiting factor of considerable importance.

BUSINESS TRAINING.

Lack of business methods constitutes an obstacle of some magnitude in the path of successful agriculture. The management of farming operations, especially if of a diversified nature, calls for a good deal of business aptitude. In Britain young men who intend eventually