

At date of writing one cannot see any appreciable advantage in quantitative sowings. Owing to the very dry local conditions plants require a good deal of soil-space, and when the seed is thickly sown the death-rate is great and a thin strike results. It cannot yet be stated that any one plot excels the others, but the grasses most in evidence are the same species as those already mentioned as doing well on Gallows Hill. The same grasses were sown in the area as outside, with the addition of Chewings fescue and chicory. Owing to there being no stock in the netted area, the grasses when inspected in March, 1923 (sown 6th September, 1921), were tall and straight in habit of growth, but very little evidence was present of their seeding. Here cocksfoot, yarrow, tall fescue, and chicory were very noticeable, the

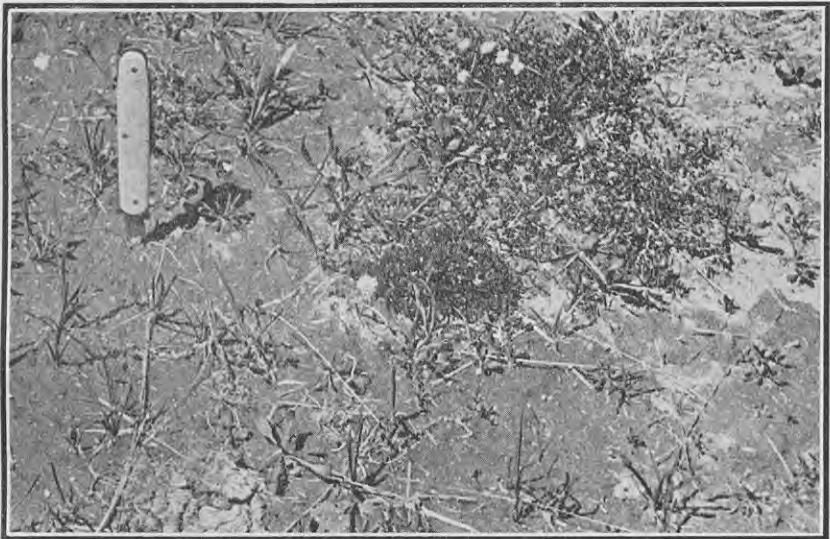


FIG. 4. GRASS-SEEDLINGS ON EXPOSED GROUND, MOUNT POSSESSION.
Sown 13/9/22; photo taken 31/1/23.

last-named having seeded fairly freely. The chain-harrowing to give cover to the seed seemed quite unnecessary—in fact, appeared to cover the seed too deeply in many places. The frost-cracked ground, with a shower of rain after spring sowing, gave the most satisfactory results.

Somewhat similar sowings were made on Mount Possession Station, Ashburton County, where the rainfall is somewhat heavier than at Haldon, but the land probably of poorer quality. Here flat and undulating country was selected (altitude approximately 2,000 ft.), and sowings made both in autumn and spring. The autumn sowings confirmed the Mackenzie country experience, and were quite useless. The spring-sown seed gave a fairly good strike, particularly on the southerly aspects or where protected from the north-west wind. As far as present observations go, bare ground proved a more acceptable seed-bed than that covered with vegetative growth, such as scab-weeds, *Triodia australis*, Strathmore weed, a yellow composite, New