

Season.	Broadcast.		7 in. Drills.		14 in. Drills.		21 in. Drills.	
	Tons	cwt.	Tons	cwt.	Tons	cwt.	Tons	cwt.
1920-21	17	0	17	5	17	0	14	14
1921-22 (four cuttings)	25	10	19	14	22	12	21	8
1922-23 (three cuttings)	18	15	17	13	17	18	16	13
Average of three seasons	20	8	18	4	19	5	17	12

The later area, sown in December, 1919, in 21 in. drills, has given the following results: Grimm variety, with manure, 1921-22, 16 tons 12 cwt.; 1922-23, 14 tons 1 cwt.; average of two seasons, 15 tons 6½ cwt. per acre. Grimm, without manure, 1921-22, 14 tons 12 cwt.; 1922-23, 12 tons; average, 13 tons 6 cwt. per acre. Marlborough variety, with manure, 1921-22, 13 tons 17 cwt.; 1922-23, 13 tons 3 cwt.; average, 13 tons 10 cwt. per acre. Marlborough, without manure, 1921-22, 14 tons 12 cwt.; 1922-23, 11 tons 10 cwt.; average, 13 tons 1 cwt. per acre.

It should be mentioned that it has not been possible to cultivate the lucerne on the Marton Area, the land being either too wet or too hard.

GENERAL.

One acre of grass-peas was grown for seed purposes, but the crop has not yet been threshed.

Tares self-sown in the autumn were fed down twice with sheep during the winter and harvested early in the new year, yielding well. On land like that at Marton autumn sowing of tares should be good practice, for in addition to the benefits of early maturing they provide quite an amount of good sheep-feed.

A further area of 13½ acres has been sown down in temporary pasture for soil-fertility purposes. It is also proposed to sow an area of imported wild white clover when the seed which is on order comes to hand.

Chewings fescue threshed out very well last season, and at the Department's seed-testing station gave higher germination tests than for many years previously.

Compensation for Condemned Stock.—During the last financial year compensation to the amount of £12,986 was paid out for 5,183 animals condemned in the field under the Stock Act, and in addition the sum of £12,657 was paid for carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned on inspection at time of slaughter under the provisions of the Slaughtering and Inspection Act, making the total amount for which the Consolidated Fund became liable £25,643.

Nauru Phosphate.—Since the acquisition of the Nauru and Ocean Island phosphate-deposits by Britain, Australia, and New Zealand the importation of phosphate-rock from that source into this Dominion has been in the hands of the Department of Agriculture. The business having become well established, with the Dominion now absorbing its full quota, arrangements were made for its conduct to be placed in the hands of the Phosphate Commission as from 30th June last. The arrangement between the Department and the commercial agents terminated at the same time, the agents now acting for the Commissioners only.