

## FARMERS' FIELD COMPETITIONS, 1922-23 SEASON.

TARANAKI, WANGANUI, AND FEILDING DISTRICTS.

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THESE competitions have been continued as in previous years, fourteen localities taking part in 1922-23. The wet season was rather detrimental to good cultivation and heavy yields, conditions being so bad in some parts that no entries were made. After eliminating all failures, the following crops were judged: Mangolds, 119; carrots, 64; swedes, 63; soft turnips, 20; lucerne, 71; and maize, 5: a total of 342. These figures mark a net increase of eleven over those of the previous year. Soft turnips fell off in entries, while lucerne showed a considerable increase.

All these crops were judged by Instructors Glasson, Schwass, and the writer. Small competitions were held in a few other centres, and the crops judged by local judges. In most districts, as in previous years, farmers turned out in large numbers for the judgings, and took a keen interest in the proceedings. In some of the more active centres the number of young farmers who attend is very gratifying, and it is this type of enthusiast that is going to derive the greatest benefit from the competitions.

In localities where the competitions have been going longest the averages of the crops continue to increase, and the better cultivation and general care are very pleasing. Taking, for example, places like Otakeho and Maxwelltown, the former, with nine crops of mangolds, had an average of 68 tons 8 cwt. per acre, and the latter, with seventeen crops, the even better average of 69 tons 18 cwt. To a lover of a good and well-cared-for crop a day spent at the judging in either of these localities was very enjoyable.

### MANGOLDS.

Mr. Charles Willis, of Matapu, won the championship for south Taranaki with a crop of 84 tons 6 cwt. per acre—total points, 182½. Last year's winner, Mr. J. Dakers, of Manaia, was second with 182 points—a very close contest. In the Wanganui district Mr. H. Birch, of Maxwelltown, won again this year with a crop of 93 tons 5 cwt. per acre, beating his previous year's record by 5¼ tons. This was an exceptionally fine crop, as shown in the accompanying photograph, and reflected great credit on the grower. In the Feilding district the best crop, 77 tons 1 cwt. per acre, was grown by Mr. W. E. Johnston, of Te Arakura. These competitors also won the Sutton Cups for the best crop of mangolds in their respective districts.

It is very pleasing to record the interest Messrs. Sutton and Sons, through their New Zealand agents, Messrs. J. G. Ward and Co., continue to take in these competitions. In addition to the three handsome cups presented last year, they have promised a fourth for the Rongotea district. These trophies have assisted greatly in stimulating interest in the movement.