

hunks are left to dry out in the north-west winds, and most of the twitch will be destroyed. This method is preferable to skim-ploughing and grubbing, as the latter method consolidates the ground beneath the surface, and any piece of twitch that may have been missed will re-establish.

#### PASTURE-MANAGEMENT.

Pastures will now require the greatest care in grazing, so that the luxuriant early-summer growth is not allowed to become rank and unpalatable through insufficient stocking. The advantages of good subdivision of the land into comparatively small areas is well demonstrated by the finer sward and more succulent growth of those paddocks, which can be fed down quickly whenever necessary. Should the feed show signs of getting ahead of the stock it is a good plan to shut up one or more paddocks and cut them for ensilage. This can be done even in showery weather, and will not only save waste, but will greatly improve the succeding herbage. Stock of all kinds relish a change on to fresh young grass.

The management of pastures is a phase of farming which perhaps requires special attention in Canterbury. Owing to the heavy local north-westers and moisture conditions generally, combined with heavy stocking during the spring months, pastures usually present a poor appearance about January, and even on the better land do not hold so long as they should. Spelling of grasslands should be practised to a greater extent—firstly with the object of allowing the better grasses to reseed, and thus re-establish the pasture; and, secondly, because a certain amount of feed, though somewhat dry, will be preserved for use later in the season.

—*Fields Division.*

#### BRANDING OF SHEEP.

Immediately after shearing all sheep should be carefully branded with the registered brand of the owner—that is, in all districts which are not exempt from wool-branding. It is noticed that a number of owners brand in a very careless manner, the oil or paint used not being of the proper consistency and simply making a blotch. Section 62 of the Stock Act states that all sheep shall be distinctly and legibly branded with the owner's registered brand, and for every such sheep not so branded the owner shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 10s.

In the case of stragglers or sheep shorn by mistake, these should be branded on the head with the registered brand of the owners in whose shed the sheep have been shorn, or, if he has no registered wool-brand, with a distinguishing mark of paint or tar. Failure to observe these rules is often the cause of bad feeling between neighbouring owners, and sometimes ends in Court proceedings.

All lambs should be branded not later than 30th April in each year.

—*Live-stock Division.*

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## THE ORCHARD.

FRUIT-TREES of various descriptions will now be in the summer stages, with young fruits and heavy growth of foliage. The fruits advance very rapidly in size, necessitating repeated sprayings to keep them protected against attacks from insect pests and the multitude of fungus spores. The same applies to foliage, which is of quite as much importance to the welfare of the tree as the production of fruit is to the grower. Every effort should be made to keep the foliage as healthy as possible. Unless the fruit and foliage are kept well covered disease-prevention is almost impossible, yet this must be done in such a way as to eliminate russet, burning, or other damage to either fruit or foliage.

#### SPRAYS AND SPRAYING.

*Arsenate of Lead* is used for the control of biting and chewing insects such as codlin-moth, leaf-roller, cut-worms, &c., and is used at the rate of 2 lb. (if in powder form) or 3 lb. (if paste) to 100 gallons water. To ensure the best results being obtained it is essential that all parts be thoroughly covered with the spray. With the rapid new season's growth this means repeated applications of not longer than twenty-one-day intervals.