

INCREASE IN MERINO SHEEP.

FOR the second year in succession the Annual Sheep Returns (30th April) show an increase in the number of Merino sheep in the Dominion. This year stud Merinos total 29,216, as against 23,612 in 1922; and flock sheep 931,899, compared with 842,293 last year. Included in these totals stud breeding-ewes have increased from 13,550 to 15,886, and other breeding-ewes from 344,663 to 375,287.

THE STUART WILSON CUP AWARD.

THE Stuart Wilson Cup, which is competed for each year by the competitors in the boys' and girls' agricultural clubs conducted in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, has this year been awarded to L. Stevenson, of Hampden School, Hampden, Otago. This competitor grew last season a crop of Arran Chief potatoes yielding at the rate of 22½ tons per acre. This yield was secured at a cost of £1 per ton. As the average yield of potatoes for the district is not more than 7 tons per acre, his performance is very meritorious, and indicates the value of thorough cultivation in increasing crop-yields. The runner-up for the cup was Harry Betts, of Okaiawa, Taranaki, who grew a crop of mangolds yielding 132 tons per acre, at a cost of 2s. 5d. per ton. A photograph of this crop was reproduced in the August *Journal*. A fair average yield of mangolds in the Taranaki District is somewhere in the vicinity of 50 tons per acre.

FORTHCOMING AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Poverty Bay A. and P. Association: Gisborne, 23rd and 24th October.
 Marlborough A. and P. Association: Blenheim, 24th and 25th October.
 Timaru A. and P. Association: Timaru, 24th and 25th October.
 Wairarapa P. and A. Society: Carterton, 24th and 25th October.
 Manawatu A. and P. Assn.: Palmerston North, 30th and 31st Oct. and 1st Nov.
 Ashburton A. and P. Association: Ashburton, 31st October and 1st November.
 Wanganui A. and P. Association: Wanganui, 7th and 8th November.
 Canterbury A. and P. Association: Christchurch, 8th and 9th November.
 Winton A. and P. Association: Winton, 14th November.
 Egmont A. and P. Association: Hawera, 14th and 15th November.
 Nelson A. and P. Association: Nelson, 20th November.
 Waikato A. and P. Association: Hamilton, 20th and 21st November.
 North Otago A. and P. Association: Oamaru, 21st and 22nd November.
 Stratford A. and P. Association: Stratford, 21st and 22nd November.
 South Otago A. and P. Association: Balclutha, 22nd and 23rd November.
 Otago A. and P. Society: Dunedin, 28th and 29th November.
 Southland A. and P. Association: Invercargill, 11th and 12th December.
 Masterton A. and P. Association: Solway, 19th and 20th December.
 Woodville A. and P. Association: Woodville, 22nd and 23rd January.
 Feilding I., A., and P. Association: Feilding, 5th and 6th February.
 Clevedon A. and P. Association: Clevedon, 9th February.
 Dannevirke A. and P. Association: Dannevirke, 13th and 14th February.
 Katikati A. and P. Society: Katikati, 21st February.
 Rotorua A. and P. Association: Rotorua, 27th February.
 Omaha and Pakiri A. and H. Society: Leigh, 1st March.
 Taranaki Metropolitan Agricultural Society: New Plymouth, 5th and 6th March.
 Waikato Central Agricultural Association: Cambridge, 5th and 6th March.
 Morrinsville A., P., and H. Society: Morrinsville, 12th March.
 Methven A. and P. Association: Methven, 27th March.
 Temuka and Geraldine A. and P. Association: Winchester, 3rd April.

(Agricultural and Pastoral Association secretaries are invited to supply dates and location of their shows.)