

quantity of leafage thrown by this grass. In the issues of this *Journal* for May and October, 1921, December, 1922, and November, 1923, preliminary reports were given on results obtained with kikuyu at Albany and Puwera experimental areas.

INTRODUCTION AND TRIALS AT ALBANY.

Cuttings of kikuyu were introduced into New Zealand from Rhodesia by Mr. M. O'Brien, who was then on the staff of the Agriculture Department, at Wellington, and they were planted out at the Albany Experimental Area, near Auckland, in the spring of 1920. In a few weeks the plants were well established. A number of farmers who visited the area were so favourably impressed with the progress of the grass in the first season that they asked to be supplied with roots for trial. The roots were planted out in rows 3 ft. apart and 3 ft. between the rows, but during the first season this intervening area was covered by the runners. A small dressing of superphosphate was applied at planting, and on this and a larger plot which was laid down the next season an autumn top-dressing of superphosphate and basic slag was regularly applied with good results. Since it does not seem to be the only means of propagating kikuyu is by planting of roots, and owing to lack of space, which precluded the carrying-out of more extensive trials at Albany, this centre is now used mainly for the distribution of roots to interested farmers who apply for them.

PUWERA EXPERIMENTS.

Roots forwarded from the Albany plot were planted out at Puwera, with a small amount of superphosphate, during November, 1920, and, as at Albany, the plants soon became well established. Visitors invariably expressed surprise at the vigorous growth of the kikuyu on this class of soil, which is typical of the stiff "pipeclay" gum-land. Experience at Albany had shown that, as with *paspalum*, the kikuyu becomes root-bound, and also requires top-dressing where it is not grazed by stock. In the second season at Puwera an area in the nursery was laid down with Lodino clover and kikuyu, and another with *Lotus major*, white clover, and kikuyu. The result was striking, since there was a remarkable improvement in the quality of the feed thrown by the kikuyu, which was very appreciably improved by the association with legumes. Both plots were grazed by a horse, and later cut for hay, which was of good quality and relished by stock. In experiments conducted at Kenya, British East Africa, clovers sown with kikuyu were entirely crowded out, and were only able to show up when the grass sward had been broken up.

FEEDING-TRIALS.

In September, 1922, an area of one acre was planted at Puwera with kikuyu roots, and later surface-sown with a mixture of red clover, white clover, and *Lotus major*. A good take resulted, and the whole area between the rows was well covered after the first season. This area throws a large quantity of succulent feed, most of which is produced between the months January to April. Figs. 2 and 3 show steers grazing on the plot, and give an indication of the close sward obtained with the kikuyu, *Lotus major*, and clovers. The cattle keep it closely grazed, and the area is very free from weeds, which