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IRRIGATION AND ITS PRACTICE.

(Concluded.)

VII. THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATED GRASS PASTURES.

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AS has been stated, lucerne is one of the most important forage crops in Central Otago, and for the production of a high-class cured hay it cannot be excelled. On account, however, of its tendency to bloat stock it must be regarded as unsatisfactory in general as a pasture crop. Very little cured hay is used for feeding cattle or sheep during the summer months, as the farmer looks for grass pastures to supply the bulk of the summer feed. The average irrigator usually keeps, in addition to his dairy cows and horses, a small flock of sheep, and where such is the case good irrigated pastures undoubtedly are a most valuable asset. Central Otago is ideally adapted to the growing of pasture grasses and clovers. There, with an abundance of water coupled with soil low in lime requirement, and the presence of almost continuous sunshine, conditions are ideal for the establishment of first-class pastures.

For fattening purposes or the production of milk a well-designed pasture containing a proper proportion of clover and grasses in its composition is unsurpassable. Such pastures fit excellently into any