

### CONCLUSION.

In presenting this series of articles, which have been designed primarily for the farmers of Central Otago, it is realized by the writers that only a few of the most salient features in regard to the wide subject of "Irrigation and its Practice" have been touched upon. Although irrigation is of great antiquity, there is much to learn, and still more to unlearn, before perfection in its practice can be attained. Experience, the master teacher, will at all times prove the most valuable factor in regard to the irrigation farmer realizing his aims and ambitions; and, being practically without precedent in New Zealand to guide him, he must rely to a large extent on his own sound judgment. The conviction remains, however, that, with the intelligent and industrious class of farmer who is taking up this type of farming, Central Otago has a great future before it.

Finally, our thanks are due to Mr. F. W. Furkert, Engineer-in-Chief of the Public Works Department, and to Mr. A. H. Cockayne, Director of the Fields Division, Department of Agriculture, for the helpful suggestions and advice rendered in the compilation of this series of articles.

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### CONTROL WORK ON MEALY BUG AND PEAR-MIDGE.

REARING and distribution of the *Cryptolaemus* ladybird for the control of apple mealy bug have been brought up to a considerable scale this season at the Department's Biological Laboratory. From a colony carried through the winter from last autumn sufficient quantities of beetles have been reared for liberation at intervals at Auckland, Hastings, Blenheim, and Motueka, and further material is being sent out. Reports from Motueka state that the beetle there is already showing its efficiency. Messrs. G. Stratford and W. H. Rice, of the Horticulture Division, have carried out the work of liberation at Motueka and Hastings respectively.

The latest results in the use of calcium cyanide as a soil-fumigant against the pear-midge are extremely promising. Before an account of the work is issued the outcome of certain experiments is being awaited.

—David Miller, Entomologist.

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### HECTOR MEMORIAL AWARD, 1924.

THE Hector Memorial Medal and Prize for the year 1924 have been awarded to Mr. B. C. Aston, Chemist to the Department of Agriculture, for his researches on the chemistry of "bush sickness" in domestic ruminant stock, and of New Zealand flora. It will be recalled that a series of articles by Mr. Aston giving an account of the work in field and laboratory, and developing his "iron-starvation" theory, were published in the *Journal* during last year. The prize and medal of the Hector Memorial Research Fund are awarded annually to the investigator who in the opinion of the Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute has done most towards the advancement of that branch of science to which the prize and medal are in each year allotted. The allotment is made in rotation for the following subjects: Botany, chemistry, ethnology, geology, physics (including mathematics and astronomy), and zoology (including animal physiology).