

## SEASONAL NOTES.

### THE FARM.

#### CULTURAL AND CROPPING OPERATIONS.

IN Canterbury and other South Island districts with similar conditions the teams from now on should be working at high pressure preparing land for wheat and oats. There is no advantage in sowing wheat too early—May and June being the best months—as autumn flights of Hessian fly are liable to injure the young plants. The earlier sowings of wheat should be light—say,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  bushels per acre—as the land is usually in good condition and the stooling of plants greater. Further sowings of oats can be made in the coming month. Cape barley is not as serviceable as Algerian oats for winter feed for sheep. Black Skinless barley is best suited to early spring sowing, owing to its very rapid growth. In the North Island, as a general rule, wheat gives the best results when spring sown, but oats may be sown any time now. Algerians usually give the best results; for autumn sowing  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bushels per acre is ample.

In preparing a seed-bed for autumn-sown cereals it is advisable to work the land fine underneath but leave it somewhat lumpy on the surface; this condition affords a certain amount of shelter for the young plants and prevents the soil from running together. In ploughing lea land a good deep furrow should be turned. Too often the ploughing is of the same depth each season; it is advisable to vary it each year so as to avoid the forming of a pan.

Any stubble or other vacant land should be ploughed at once and either sown in a green crop or left to fallow. Very stiff wet land is greatly benefited by a winter fallow; but the lighter North Island lands are apt to leach badly if left fallow, and for this reason they are usually better sown in a green crop. Suitable forages for this purpose were mentioned in last month's notes.

Advantage of the winter months should be taken for cleaning yarrow-infested lands. If ploughed now sheep can very profitably be grazed on the ploughed land, as they thrive on the yarrow-roots.

#### CROPS AND FEEDING.

Cocksfoot-paddocks from which seed has been taken should not be stocked till July, as the April growth of leafage assists next season's production. Late-sown rape-paddocks having been once fed, especially if sown with grass-seed, may be closed for early spring feed for ewes and lambs. Rape land should be ploughed now if required for winter-sown cereals. If dry-rot has made its appearance in the swede crop, and shows signs of spreading, the roots should be fed off without delay. Crops like maize and millet should be cleaned up as far as possible during April, as they are easily damaged by frosts. In most dairying districts the cows will be dried off during May, and every opportunity should be taken by generous feeding to get them in as good condition as possible before they go out.