

not justify top-dressing. The plot will again be closed for observation next season. In the meantime, however, it appears that top-dressing an old run-out pasture on this type of soil will not pay. These remarks do not apply to young grass, Mr. Chapman having obtained encouraging results from his own experiments on new pastures.

(II) R. F. SANDERS, STEWART SETTLEMENT.

This pasture is a purely native one, mainly composed of *Danthonia pilosa*, into which had encroached such species as goose-grass, English hair-grass, and sweet vernal, while a small amount of suckling-clover could be noticed throughout. The pasture is situated on the old gravel terrace of the Waitaki River, and the experiment was conducted to afford information as to the effect of top-dressing this class of grass-land. In many respects the plot resembled that of Mr. J. B. Chapman (No. 10), and the results obtained were practically similar. Top-dressed on 16th August, 1927, the plot was closed to stock on 1st October. Close observation was made at various times throughout the period. A fair general growth took place over the plot, but proved too light to harvest. A definite increase in suckling-clover content on those strips top-dressed with superphosphate could be noted. No other treatment appeared to have taken effect. The increase of suckling-clover in this year's results could not justify the expense of top-dressing. Bearing in mind the dryness of this class of country it will be interesting to observe next season's results.

STATISTICS OF TOP-DRESSING ON FARMS.

INFORMATION regarding areas top-dressed in New Zealand, together with the kinds and quantities of fertilizer applied, was collected in the 1926-27 season for the first time. The summarized figures show that 1,521,259 acres were top-dressed, the total quantity of fertilizer used amounting to 4,383,002 cwt., or 219,150 tons. With reference to the total area quoted, and obtained by adding together the areas top-dressed with the fertilizers stated, it should be borne in mind that this figure is not an accurate representation of the actual total area top-dressed. This is accounted for by the fact that in many cases where farmers top-dressed the same area with two or more of the fertilizers quoted, either separately or as a mixture, duplication of such areas under the appropriate fertilizer headings undoubtedly resulted. Consequently the actual total area top-dressed would be correspondingly less.

Nature of Top-dressing.	North Island.		South Island.		Dominion.	
	Area.	Quantity used.	Area.	Quantity used.	Area.	Quantity used.
	Acres.	Cwt.	Acres.	Cwt.	Acres.	Cwt.
Superphosphate	825,811	2,038,641	159,351	314,909	985,162	2,353,550
Basic slag	252,328	730,410	10,440	28,359	262,768	758,769
Other artificial fertilizers and manures	152,218	452,024	9,641	30,624	161,859	482,648
Stable and farm manure	3,683	..	792	..	4,475	..
Lime	52,898	266,832	54,097	521,203	106,995	788,035
Totals	1,286,938	3,487,907	234,321	895,095	1,521,259	4,383,002