

saved runs from 30,000 lb. to 40,000 lb. annually. Unlike that of several other districts in New Zealand, the local cocksfoot-seed does not seem to be looked upon with much favour. Our annual importation of some 800 tons of cocksfoot could be reduced by at least 100 tons were much of the wasting cocksfoot saved throughout the Dominion. There are many obviously valuable close leafy strains in the Southland pastures which doubtless could be propagated with advantage, but until the value of the different strains is actually demonstrated and appreciated the locally grown seed is not likely to be in marked demand.

#### THE COMMERCIAL ASPECT.

From a commercial aspect Southland is one of the most important seed-production districts in New Zealand, and a large amount of capital has been expended in stores and machine-cleaning plants. Seed is purchased by merchants as farmers' dressed direct from the mill, or it is dressed at so-much per pound on behalf of the grower, who then offers it as M/D, or machine-dressed. In either case a sample is submitted for test, so that the buyer can fully assess and place a value on a line under offer.

The importance of purity and germination is becoming better recognized, and these factors are now relied upon to a greater extent than are the older quality-factors—weight and colour. These, of course, cannot be ignored, but they are secondary to the purity and germination factors. That the importance of these tests is recognized is shown by the fact that during 1927 over 30 per cent. (3,377) of the samples received at the official Seed-testing Station came from Southland.

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## FUMIGATION OF VINERIES WITH CALCIUM CYANIDE.

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CALCIUM CYANIDE is fast taking a leading position as a destructor of vermin and insect pests. As a means of controlling mealy bug in vineries it is more simple, less dangerous, and quite as efficacious as the old pot method of cyaniding. Before attempting to use this remedy the operator must realize that he is dealing with a very deadly gas, the inhalation of which will cause death. However, there should be no serious danger if reasonable precautions are taken.

So far as the vines are concerned, there is a risk of burning the foliage and grapes when the latter are in their green stage, and grape-growing authorities in England now advise the use of cyanide only after the grapes have been cut. Notwithstanding this sound advice, it sometimes happens that the mealy bugs—the pest we have to deal with here—are very much in evidence when the grapes are green, and threaten to ruin their market value. Under such circumstances a grower can afford to take some risk in order to obtain a clean and profitable crop.