

type of foundation stock used, and to the prevalence of disease, the average production per herd is not high, but is steadily improving. Wintering-off has enabled farmers to practise a heavy density of cows during the lactation period, and this system of management has resulted in heavy per-acre production on the more highly improved farms. Total returns are comparable with old-established farms in other districts; but this has been attained at the expense of labour. In other words, more labour is required to achieve the same capital result than is the case in Taranaki and the Waikato, where, owing to a higher production per cow, a lesser number gives the same butterfat total.

The fact that so many of the farms show a sound financial position is evidence that those at present below the average can be looked upon as potentially sound. Lack of capital is undoubtedly the major retarding factor, although misfortune has played its part on many holdings. Again, it must be remembered that the district suffered from a dry summer during the season under review.

(To be continued.)

FEEDING ENSILAGE TO SHEEP.

SOME SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCES BY FARMERS.

MANY hundreds of New Zealand farmers are successfully and profitably feeding ensilage to dairy cows. This fact is prompting numbers to ask whether it is advisable to feed ensilage to sheep. Much light will be thrown on this matter by relating what had already been the experience in New Zealand of certain farmers who have fed ensilage to sheep.

South Island Experience.

Mr. C. V. Dayus, District Superintendent, Live-stock Division, Dunedin, gives the following particulars:—

Otautau.—Mr. R. Greenslade, of the Otautau district, Southland, fed oats and peas ensilage, at the rate of about 2 lb. daily, to sheep during the winter of 1929. The sheep did well, and Mr. Greenslade intends to continue using ensilage in this manner.

Queenstown.—Messrs. H. McKenzie and Sons, of the Queenstown district, also fed ensilage to hoggets during last winter. They are of the opinion that the hoggets did much better on it than other sheep did on hay, and they intend to make more ensilage in future.

Myross Bush.—Mr. H. C. Stevens, Myross Bush, near Invercargill, fed ensilage to 400 sheep during last winter, and intends to increase his ensilage supplies.

In respect to Mr. Steven's experience, Mr. G. W. Wild, of the Fields Division, Invercargill, reports as follows: In July it was decided to commence feeding out the ensilage. This proved to be of an excellent sweet green type from top to bottom. A mob of 400 in-lamb ewes had been selected for feeding. A timely fall of snow proved most opportune, as the ensilage, when thrown along the gorse hedge, was