

and "run with the bull." Herd-maintenance, on the other hand, appears decidedly significant. Whereas in the 550 herds considered "normal" 321 were maintained by home-reared heifers and 229 by outside purchases—a ratio of 1:0.7—in this group the numbers are 8 and 15 respectively, a ratio of 1:1.87. Purchases in the open market would therefore appear to greatly increase the risk of introducing an epidemic form of sterility into a herd.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

(1) In North Taranaki the proportions of cows calving on or before 31st August, aborting, or failing to become pregnant are approximately 68 per cent., 5 per cent., and 4 per cent. respectively, calculated on returns totalling 23,803 cows.

(2) Hand service combined with herd-maintenance by means of home-reared heifers results in the highest average breeding-efficiency, while the practice of allowing the bull to run with the herd coupled with maintenance by means of saleyard purchases gives the worst results.

(3) Irrespective of the method of herd-management, maintenance by outside purchase results in decreased breeding-efficiency, together with increased numbers of abortions and empty cows.

(4) The methods of herd management and maintenance adopted are influenced by the size of the herd; the smaller the herd the greater the tendency to hand service and maintenance by home-reared stock, and *vice versa*.

(5) The size of the farm is not a factor influencing the system of management and maintenance.

(6) Bone-chewing is a sign of mineral deficiency, and is reflected in a decreased general breeding-efficiency, and possibly in increased abortion and empty cow rates.

(7) Epidemic sterility apparently exists in about 3.5 per cent. of herds, and its incidence seems to be markedly influenced by the system of herd-maintenance, being nearly twice as prevalent in herds kept up by outside purchases (see also No. 3 above).

(8) Apparent epidemic sterility is not directly connected with contagious abortion, since the abortion rate in affected herds is similar to that for normals.

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*Siberian Cheese and Butter on London Market.*—In a recent report Mr. W. Wright, Inspector of New Zealand Dairy-produce, London, remarks: "There has been a certain amount of cheese arriving in London recently from Siberia. When compared with pre-war days the cheese shows a marked improvement in make, but the flavours are very unclean—in fact, 'vile' would not be too strong a term to use. The shippers, however, take great care, not only with the cheese, but also with the butter exported. For instance, the individual cheeses are packed in crates, but first of all wrapped up in paper and then packed in wood shavings. In the case of butter, the quality of which is variable (but which does also show a certain amount of improvement in quality), the individual casks are wrapped up in a woven mat, after the style of some mats that are woven with New Zealand flax. On arrival of the shipment at Hay's Wharf, and before going into cold store, these wrappers are removed and the casks are then found to be in quite a clean condition, free from soiling of any kind, which makes the packages look very attractive to the trade."