

carrying-capacity, but this was to be expected owing to the season of the year. The January and February period is usually dry with little growth. Taking this into consideration, it is most satisfactory to note how little the Hawke's Bay rye-grass fell in carrying-capacity. It confirms the contention that under controlled grazing good types of rye have little, if any, actual dormant period.

At Irwell the growth on both fields was well controlled; consequently, when the usual dry conditions and north-western winds came in January and February, both pastures suffered considerably more than would have been the case had more foliage been allowed to remain. Large cracks appeared, and there was an abnormal drying-out of the soil. This condition prevented the establishment of the clovers and the development of the rye-grass. From these observations one is led to the conclusion that during the dry months close grazing in Canterbury would have to be practised on thoroughly established pastures only.

At the time of writing the fields are most interesting. On the Hawke's Bay area plants are in healthy growing-condition, while on the Canterbury area many plants are dead and bare spaces in the pasture are prominent. Present indications are that the Hawke's Bay area will form a good pasture, while the other area will be practically in a run-out condition next season.

GENERAL.

In the strains and species area the plots are of one-fiftieth of an acre in area, laid down in duplicate, and consist of various strains of perennial rye-grass obtained from different parts of the Dominion. The trial shows that in nearly all cases the South Island strains are of a poor type and unsuitable for permanent pastures. The Hawke's Bay and Sandon ryes are on the whole very good, and have produced a certain amount of growth throughout the long period of dry weather experienced during the past season.

In order to further investigate the perennial rye-grass position in Canterbury, five other trials have been laid down on the farms of A. R. Hislop, Amberley; G. Hall, Hororata; H. Wright Johnston, Dunsandel; Hunter Morris, Winchmore; and W. L. Hay, Waimate. These trials will be reported on when sufficient data are available. Each of the farmers concerned has lent his hearty assistance to the investigation, and have controlled the various fields in an excellent manner.

Importation of Live-stock.—The prohibition imposed on cattle, sheep, and swine from Britain as a precaution against the entry of foot-and-mouth disease still exists, and the only countries from which stock may be imported subject to the regulations are: Cattle from Tasmania, Canada, and the United States (with the exception of California), and swine from Australia (with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia), and Canada, and sheep from Australia (with the exception of Queensland and Western Australia). A prominent feature during the official year ended 31st March last was the heavy importation of pedigree cattle in comparison with former years. The following imported animals were placed in quarantine during the year for the respective periods required: Horses, 7; cattle, 87; sheep, 9; swine, 10; dogs, 27.