

rye-cocksfoot-white clover pastures were obtained; where poor short-lived strains of rye-grass were sown (and these unfortunately comprised the majority of sowings) the pastures rapidly deteriorated and soon reached a stage of poor open swards of cocksfoot, fog, and white clover.

## (2) Development of Farming on Pumice Land.

The settlement of the Waikato district marks the first stage in the development of pumice lands. The plains of the Middle Waikato Basin consist of low rolling hills of unconsolidated pumiceous sands and silts, flat areas of recent water-borne sandy pumice, and large peat swamps.



FIG. 7. PERMANENT PASTURE, NGAKURU DEMONSTRATION FARM, THREE YEARS OLD.

Sown October, 1930, on first furrow, after clearing scrub. Dominantly perennial rye-grass, white clover, red clover, and cocksfoot.

*(Photo by E. Bruce Levy.)*

The soils of the low rolling hills are loams of fair fertility; the soils of the plains are sandy in texture, and in an unimproved state are of low fertility.

After the Waikato War in 1864, the Natives were driven from the plains of the Waikato, their land was confiscated, and the country settled with Europeans. Successful early European settlement took place mainly on the low rolling hill country where the soil was moderately fertile, but progress was very slow until the phosphatic top-dressing of grassland became an established practice. The development of the plains of pumice sand spread out gradually from the farming centres on the low hill country, and it is very doubtful whether the pumice plains of the Waikato would have been successfully settled as early as they were had not areas of moderately good land occurred through