

change their feed requirements to fit the average pasture-growth, or, more accurately, that changes in pasture-growth cause the animal to adjust its weight accordingly, abundant pasture permits the storing of fat, short rations force the animal to use its body reserves and so to lose weight. In the process of feed adjustment this process might reasonably be placed first.

USING THE ANIMAL AS A STOREHOUSE.

There is probably no process more widely used nor any so indispensable as this in the feeding of stock. Without it drought conditions would destroy stock periodically in almost every part of the world—lazy or inexperienced stockmen would lose more stock than they reared. It is used efficiently and appropriately to combat short spells of insufficient feed, and on country where it is difficult or impossible to have other reserves, especially where the level of stock-production is low. It is used conveniently and less appropriately on paddock farms, where its mistaken costlessness presents it as an easy substitute for better ways of providing feed. Where animals lose weight they must regain it, and this they do when feed is abundant in spring. Three consequences result from this. First, production-feed that could be sold as fat-lamb carcasses or butterfat is stored as ewe body-weight or cow body-weight. Next, the animal storing weight and producing at the same time eats to stomach capacity, and may consume the spring surplus to such an extent that there is little left for putting by as reserves of hay. A repetition of the process in the following year is thus not prevented. Finally, where stock are hungry for long periods there is difficulty in maintaining good grass, and many of the failures of improved strains and of better methods of utilization are directly due to failure in making adequate feed provision for times of scarcity. On the whole the use of this process should be confined to cheap and natural conditions. Its elimination from conditions of artificial high production would mean the better exploitation of all processes of advanced husbandry.

THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF PRODUCE AT AND DURING THE PEAK OF PASTURE-PRODUCTION.

The natural increase by birth and maximum production of meat or other animal products are everywhere arranged to coincide with the peak of pasture-production. This usually coincides with spring and summer. The selling of butterfat and of fat lambs and all surplus stock by the beginning of early autumn are of similar import in adjusting feed-supply to stock numbers. Appreciation of the part played by the sale of finished produce has led some stockowners to use the market extensively, wintering as few sheep as possible, stocking up to capacity in early spring, and selling everything that fattens when it is ready. As a national policy it is impossible for every one to pick the plums—if plums they be—in this way, and it is opposed to that stability of progress so essential in all stock projects. Where supplementary crops are grown excessively, the market has to be used excessively. It is probable that most lambs fattened after the end of March in the