

EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS DISTRICTS.

NORTH AUCKLAND(1).

Subterranean clover has long been appreciated as a valuable clover in dairy pastures on free-draining volcanic soils. Its tendency to smother other species under light stocking and the prevalence of bloat in cattle in favourable seasons have been regarded as bad faults, but under good management and utilization it has shown clearly its capacity for high spring production. The fact that rye-grass, white clover, and paspalum can combine well with subterranean clover under good management is now generally recognized, and this clover is accepted as a useful additional species. It is, however, on the older, consolidated, sand-dune country of the west coast too dry in summer to hold white clover, and where its superiority over *Lotus hispidus* and suckling clover, the main legumes of the pasture, is very marked, that its use should be developed. On sandy gum land also there is considerable scope for the extension of subterranean clover. The main requirement in both cases is adequate phosphatic manuring which the introduction of subterranean clover would make profitable on swards at present not capable of giving satisfactory returns for top-dressing.

As in many other districts, it is in connection with fat-lamb production that the use of subterranean clover is likely to prove most profitable in North Auckland. Much of the rolling sandstone and grey-wacke hill country at present carrying dry stock and not worth top-dressing could, with the introduction of subterranean clover and phosphatic manuring, be converted into fat-lamb pastures.

SOUTH AUCKLAND(2).

The area covered in this paper extends from Auckland south to the Waikato. Subterranean clover has been recognized for many years in the Manakau and Franklin Counties as a valuable clover additional to white clover, particularly on account of its ability to re-establish quickly after occasional dry summers, when white clover may be practically killed out. Because of the usual adequate summer rainfall of South Auckland dairying lands, white-clover establishment is, however, generally the aim on most dairy-farms. Subterranean clover is appreciated on the volcanic lands and lighter pumice soils for its early and heavy feed-production and the excellent silage it makes. As in North Auckland, there is likely to be a considerable extension of the use of subterranean clover for fat-lamb production, particularly on the lighter volcanic, sandstone, and pumice soils, when its value in this direction is more fully appreciated.

MANAWATU AND WEST COAST(3).

In this area, extending from Paraparaumu to Wanganui and from the west coast to the mountain ranges, the value and possibilities of subterranean clover on different types of country have been well demonstrated by changes effected in the production of farms since its introduction. The reason for the increase in the quantity of subterranean-clover seed sown in the Manawatu district from a few pounds five years ago to 12 tons in 1936 is quite apparent when the scope for the use of subterranean clover is realized.