

SEED CERTIFICATION.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR SEASON 1935-36.

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THE seed certification controlled by the Fields Division of the Department of Agriculture has now been in operation for a period of nine years. This report covers the activities during the 1935-36 season. While no major amendments to the work were made during the period under review, the certification of *Phalaris tuberosa* seed was introduced. The development of the production under certification of supplies of pedigree grass and clover seed has been a feature of the season's activities, while for the first time an appreciable quantity of rape-seed was accepted for certification.

A further increase in the total entries accepted for 1935-36 season, amounting to 30 per cent., has brought the number of crops under certification to the total of over 3,000. This increase has been attributable in the main to a phenomenal increase in entries for seed-wheat certification, and also to quite considerable increases in the entries received in connection with perennial rye-grass and seed-potatoes.

GOVERNMENT PEDIGREE STOCK SEEDS.

One area of perennial rye-grass, and several areas of white clover, sown with specially selected nucleus stock seed, were grown on contract by the Department during the 1935-36 season, the produce of these areas being accepted for certification as "Government Pedigree Stock" seed.

A heavy yield of perennial rye-grass seed was obtained, and the complete harvest, amounting to 800 bushels, was readily disposed of through trade channels. It was unfortunate that the season for white-clover-seed harvesting was very unfavourable, as only two of the areas could be saved for seed, and from these very small quantities of seed were obtained. On account of the short supply many orders for this seed remained unfilled.

It is expected that larger quantities of both perennial rye-grass and white-clover seed will be available from the coming harvest for distribution during June next.

PERENNIAL RYE-GRASS.

The entries into certification in the "mother" and "permanent pasture" classes were, in general, slightly lower than in the 1934-35 season except in the Hawke's Bay district, where the number of entries increased by 100. On the other hand, a complete year's activities relative to the "commercial" class of seed accounted for the examination of 525 lines of seed, representing a somewhat similar number of areas. Over 100,000 bushels of seed (40 per cent. of the total quantity certified) was accepted in this class. The total quantity of perennial rye-grass seed certified during the 1935-36 season (279,000 bushels) is 50 per cent. in excess of the 1934-35 total, and is the greatest quantity yet certified in any one season. It is estimated that over the last three seasons approximately one-third of the perennial rye-grass seed harvested in New Zealand has received official recognition under the certification scheme.