

DEVELOPMENT.

During the summer of 1932 two large blocks of Red Hill sand areas were purchased by the Government and settled with unemployed married men under the Small-farm Scheme. The blocks are shown on the plan (Fig. 1) as Wilson's and Bassett's blocks. Wilson's block consists of twenty-one sections, and is situated on the west coast about nine miles from Dargaville, while Bassett's block, which consists of eleven sections, is situated farther south, about sixteen miles from Dargaville. Each section on both blocks consists of approximately 50 acres. Development work was carried out on these blocks during the autumn of 1933.

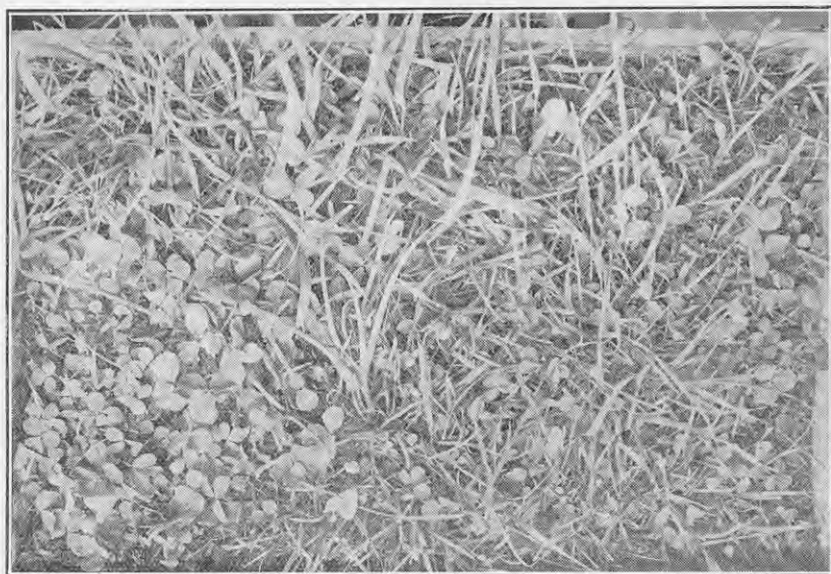


FIG. 14. RYE-GRASS - WHITE-CLOVER - COCKSFOOT SWARD.

Another example of a good sward on Red Hill sand. Paspalum is being crowded out by the vigorous growth of other species.

The results have exceeded all expectations, and the areas dealt with are now carrying an excellent sole of grass consisting mainly of rye-grass, cocksfoot, and white clover. The growth of grasses and clover has been so vigorous that paspalum has had little chance to establish (Fig. 14).

The carrying-capacity of these small farms is increasing rapidly, and the sections are now carrying up to thirty milking cows producing up to 7,500 lb. of butterfat on the better sections.

Subsequent management is along similar lines to other grass-land—with heavy stocking and regular manuring, fertility is raised, more stock means more manure, more manure means more grass, and more grass means more live-stock can be carried.

The Red Hill sand can be developed fairly cheaply. The scrub covering is light, and if burnt off two years ahead of