



Fig. 1.—A general view of the Young Farmers' Club National Shearing Competition in progress.

National Y.F.C. Shearing Competition.

G. S. ROBINSON, District Secretary, Manawatu.

THE first National Y.F.C. Shearing Competition was held on 5th November, 1938, during the Manawatu Agricultural and Pastoral Association's Show at Palmerston North. The competition was held under the auspices of the New Zealand Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, and the whole of the arrangements were undertaken and carried out by the Manawatu District Committee.

At the 1937 Royal Show held at Palmerston North the previous November a national stock-judging championship was arranged, and was used as the basis of selection for the Y.F.C. team which toured Australia for ten weeks in the early part of 1938. The Y.F.C. attraction on this latter occasion was the shearing competition and championship, prize money to the amount of £60 being donated by the Manawatu Agricultural and Pastoral Association, which materially contributed to the success of the undertaking.

Entries were received from clubs throughout the Dominion, and the competitors numbered ninety-four, both islands being represented. Elaborate arrangements were necessary to cope with this large number of entries, and also to make provision for the general public to

view the contest. The committee was fortunate in having at its disposal a large hall at the agricultural and pastoral show-grounds capable of allowing several thousand spectators to be present at a time.

Thrilling Contests.

Along one side of this hall ten machine-shearing stands were erected, and in each heat ten competitors went down together and made a race of it. This proved very popular with the public, which was provided with thrilling contests throughout the day. Speed, however, was not the only factor in the competition, style and neatness being also taken into consideration.

The following is a list of the prize-winners in each class:—

Championship.

R. Hutt, Onga Onga Y.F.C. (£21), 1.
I. Brown, Te Puke Y.F.C. (£7), 2.
W. Thompson, Rangiwhia Y.F.C. (£3), 3.

Intermediate.

D. Carman, Tinui Y.F.C. (£12), 1.
G. W. Blixt, Pohangina Y.F.C. (£5), 2.
R. L. Meads, Waituna West Y.F.C. (£2), 3.

Learners.

J. Meads, Hunterville Y.F.C. (£2), 1.

Eight prizes of £1 each were awarded to the following: G. T. Thind, Shannon Y.F.C.; E. J. Osborne, Apiti Y.F.C.; P. G. Thevenard, Kimbolton Y.F.C.; D. Simmons, Dannevirke Y.F.C.; W. J. Cooper, Masterton Y.F.C.; H. H. Cooper, Masterton Y.F.C.; S. Hay, Tinui Y.F.C.; A. Stewart, Bunnythorpe Y.F.C.

J. Meads, Hunterville Y.F.C., also won Mr. J. A. Mitchell's special prize of £1 for the neatest shearer in the learners' class.

Accommodation Taxed.

Sufficient seating accommodation was arranged by the local district committee to enable more than a thousand people to witness the contests. From 10.30 a.m. until about 5 p.m. the hall was packed, and the tiered seats held many more than was expected of them, in addition to which crowds of spectators were standing. It is estimated that fully two thousand people watched the shearing all day.

The competition required the help of many hands to keep everything on schedule. A keen sub-committee was responsible for the preliminary arrangements, and a band of sixty stewards undertook the many duties requiring attention during the running of the