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## Seed Certification Scheme Summary of Operations for Season 1938-39

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THE seed certification returns for the 1938-1939 season indicate that for most crops an increased production of certified seed is recorded. Particularly is this so in the case of brown-top, cocksfoot, and red clover seeds, but an actual decrease in production of certified seed of Italian ryegrass, potatoes, and rape is shown.

Extensions of the seed certification scheme have been made in the past season to cover broad red clover and subterranean clover.

Inquiries for certified "Government Stock" seeds have been greater than in past seasons, and many merchants and farmers have therefore been disappointed at the short supply of seed thus caused. The policy of the Department to produce more seeds of selected strains is being pursued, and to this end further contracts have been arranged for the production of "Government Stock" grass and clover seeds.

### *Perennial Ryegrass*

A gratifying increase is recorded in the production of certified perennial ryegrass seed. It is indeed unfor-

tunate that this increase has been largely offset by the reduced germinations of this seed experienced in practically all seed-growing districts. In this connection it is considered that the season just past has been the worst experienced since the introduction of certification. Certainly it has disorganised to a considerable extent the normal trading in certified perennial ryegrass seed.

The production of certified "Pedigree" seed has increased from 5,000 to nearly 10,000 bushels, while the produce of such seed certified in the "Mother" and "Permanent Pasture" classes totals a further 20,000 bushels. The total production of "Mother" seed has increased from 29,000 bushels to more than 54,000 bushels. Approximately 165,000 bushels were certified in the two classes, "Permanent Pasture" and "Commercial."

### *Cocksfoot*

The production of certified cocksfoot seed (991,000lb.) was more than 30 per cent. greater than in any one previous season. This increase has been caused

largely by an improved yield of 180lb. per acre.

The Akaroa district is still the main cocksfoot seed-producing area, although its supremacy is being seriously challenged by Mid-Canterbury. No other district approaches either of these in the production of certified seed.

### *White Clover*

More than one ton of white clover seed received recognition in the "Pedigree" class during the 1938-39 season. The season's total in the "Mother" and "Permanent Pasture" classes was almost 200 tons. It is interesting to note that whereas in the 1936-37 and 1937-38 seasons "Mother" seed comprised approximately 14 per cent. of the total, this proportion increased to more than 30 per cent. during 1938-39. This trend is very suggestive that "Mother" seed is being utilised in the establishment of areas for seed production, with consequent good effect on the general quality of the white clover seed harvested.

It is estimated that probably 90 per cent. of the country's white clover crop