

"browning" is applied. Browning substantially lowers the quality of seed and fibre.

Pasmo is very similar both in appearance and effects to browning. Both these diseases are seed-borne, but unlike wilt, do not carry over in the soil when flax is grown in rotation with other crops.

Disease in linen flax can be very largely prevented if two fundamental precautions are taken—firstly, the avoidance of land which has at any time carried linseed in which symptoms of wilt were observed, and secondly, the sowing of seed which is free from wilt, browning or pasmo. A system of control is being elaborated which will ensure that clean seed is always available.

Satisfactory Report

(12) Samples of straw from the various experimental plots were sent to England for reports on quality, and, in addition, half a ton of straw was shipped to be retted and processed. The majority of samples were considered to show considerable promise, and the fibre from the bulk lot was

valued by a firm of Irish spinners at £100 per ton, which is considered very satisfactory.

The conclusions reached from these experiments are that there are large areas in New Zealand capable of producing linen flax, that satisfactory

It is regretted that, through pressure on space for topical articles, it has been necessary this month to omit the instalment of "Grasses and Clovers of New Zealand." This instalment, which makes a start with clovers, will be published next month.

yields can be expected, and that fibre of a quality acceptable to British buyers can be grown.

It remains to be seen whether the experimental results can be reproduced on a commercial scale, what the cost of production will be, and what sort of return the grower can expect. This information can only be obtained by processing the crop from a few hundred acres on a commercial processing plant.

In order to make the necessary arrangements for this, Mr. J. W. Had-

field, Director of the Agronomy Division, has recently spent some months in Europe investigating the latest methods of production and in purchasing the necessary machinery, which will be operated by Messrs. Donaghy & Co., Ltd., at Waikuku, near Rangiora. This machinery is capable of processing dew-retted straw, tank-retted straw and unretted straw, and careful records will be kept so that a decision can be reached as to which method is best adapted to New Zealand conditions. Contracts have been arranged with farmers in that area for the growing of some 300 acres to supply the crop.

Inevitably trade and shipping was dislocated to some extent by the outbreak of war and some delay in delivery is likely, but it is hoped that a pulling machine will be available in time to harvest some of the crop. A delay for a few months in delivery of the breaking and scutching machinery and the reticulation system for the retting tanks is not important, as flax improves in quality by being stacked for some time before being processed.

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