

did not carry any when the first settlers began clearing the forest and occupying the land as grazing farms. Fern is spreading on some Peninsula farms, while on others it has been kept well in check by systematic methods of stocking.

In this connection the practice adopted by Mr. J. E. Thacker, of O'Kains Bay, to control fern on his property is of interest. Mr. Thacker is farming a property of 1680 acres, typical of much of the cocksfoot country of the Peninsula, where members of his family were among the first settlers. Mr. Thacker states that some thirty years ago about 400 acres of this particular block was badly infested with fern, and today the property is practically free from it.

This almost complete elimination of the fern has been accomplished simply by stocking with cattle in combination with sheep. The fern is not burnt off. Mr. Thacker considers burning unnecessary and harmful to the grass.

System of Stocking

The system of stocking has been to run cattle with sheep. The cattle are

stocked at from one beast to four acres to one beast to eight acres, according to the extent of fern on the area being dealt with. Starting off as yearlings the cattle are put on a certain block in the spring when fern is plentiful so that they may reach winter in good condition. These cattle are kept on the same area during winter, it being considered they work better as scavengers and go more readily into the fern-infested places to trample and feed than would cattle strange to the area.

This method is distinct from what is commonly called fern-crushing in that the beasts are not crowded in large numbers on small areas. Naturally the cattle are compelled to get into the fern-infested areas to forage during winter months through lack of feed elsewhere, but they are not unduly punished and come through to spring in good store condition.

Mr. Thacker not only regards stocking with cattle in the way he does as a sound commercial proposition, as ultimately he sends them away fat, but he also considers that cattle are essential to keep the fern in control.

He is a firm believer, however, in stocking with well-bred cattle, preferably bred on the place, and is now breeding his own beasts, using Hereford, Shorthorn, Black Poll crosses of good strains, from which he is getting excellent results.

Financial Aid For Farmers

ATTENTION is drawn to an advertisement appearing in this issue relating to facilities available to farmers for obtaining loans on the security of stock and chattels under the provisions of the Rural Intermediate Credit Act. The administration of the Act has been entrusted to the State Advances Corporation, which invites farmers who are desirous of securing financial assistance for productive purposes to address any inquiries for further information to the nearest office of the Corporation, or to the Office of the Secretary of any Rural Intermediate Credit Association established under the Act.

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This photograph shows the "Giant" Disc at work on steep hillsides. It has brought in hundreds of acres of virgin land of all classes for its many users. The "Evona Giant" Disc has also proved remarkably effective on blackberry, scrub, ti-tree, tall-fescue, rank paspalum, tern, etc., doing up to 10 acres double cut virgin land in an 8-hour day. The "Evona Giant Chain" Harrow will clean up all rubbish, pull out loose timber, pull down any mounds, and fill up hollows. Work the two implements and you will have virgin land brought into a seed bed of fine even tilth. Note the deep cut when set is applied.