

ous pasture. This also helps to explain the baneful effects of persistent overstocking, and why this practice may actually reduce the rate of growth and lead to a vicious circle which penalises both stock and pasture.

A consideration of the foregoing suggests that growth will be speeded up if the routine management of the pasture is designed to enable the plants to develop a fair amount of leaf surface between each successive grazing. If, in addition, the grazing can be rapidly performed and care is taken not to graze too close, the weakening effect of the repeated defoliations on the root system over a period will be reduced to a minimum.

Value of Rotational Grazing

In actual farm practice these various requirements can be adequately met only by intensive subdivision and a system of rotational grazing. If properly planned, such a system provides for the necessary concentration of stock to permit of quick, even grazing and at the same time allows a suffi-



Fig. 7.—Adequate subdivision is essential for high production. If properly planned, such a system provides for the necessary concentration of stock to permit of quick, even grazing, and at the same time allows a sufficient interval for recuperation between successive grazing periods.

cient interval for recuperation between successive grazing periods.

That, in this instance, theory has withstood the exacting test of actual field practice has been the general experience of the majority of those farmers who have gone in for intensive rotational grazing, and it can be definitely asserted that the adoption of

this system has been a major factor in the phenomenal increase in production shown in recent years on a wide variety of farms throughout the main dairying districts of New Zealand.

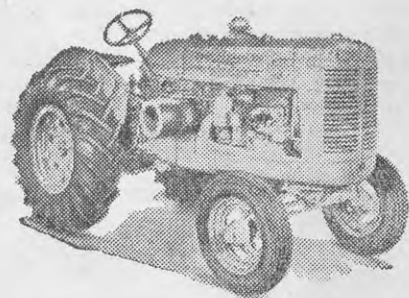
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