

of 2lb. per acre has proved sufficient to include in permanent pasture mixtures, but even this may give excessive growth, making it necessary for active control by stocking assisted by mowing when required, otherwise irreparable damage results in the smothering of ryegrass development.

Young pastures sown on the first ploughing of virgin pumice country have a low autumn, winter, and early spring production, but make rapid late spring and summer development, thus coming to a high carrying capacity in a short period. For instance, 90 acres of permanent pasture sown in the spring of 1930—a very dry period with continuous strong winds throughout the spring and summer of 1931-32—carried 56 milking cows and 50 head of dry stock, with 30 additional young stock in November. Even with this stocking feed was too plentiful, and 20 acres of heavy clover growth was topped in October and 30 acres mown and made into ensilage in late December. This remarkable growth was not merely a first year flush, as in the following years this pasture production was surpassed.



Fig. 12.—For many years the pumice soils of Rotorua district gave much trouble because of mineral deficiency. Following intensive scientific investigations, terminating in the use of limonite and cobalt, this has been overcome. Area of farm, 150 acres; stock-carrying capacity, 350 breeding ewes, 30 dairy cows, and 10 head of young dairy stock.

Active control of young pasture growth by stocking and mowing is essential for an even, vigorous development of grasses and clovers. Lack of attention to this factor means only partial success, or it may mean failure. During the late spring and summer young pastures require grazing control every 15 to 21 days; generally by

three weeks' time there is a strong clover growth.

Prospective Short Cuts

On all farms the natural desire is to accomplish the objective aimed at—be it sowing of crops, harvesting, laying down pastures, etc.—with the least possible delay together with the secur-

When Difficulties Arise REMEMBER...

No one can gainsay that, for all of us, the coming months will be fraught with difficulties. But we must face up to them. Efficiency must be the watchword for the farmers of New Zealand, so that costs can be kept down and labour shortages adjusted.

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