



THE

Director-Generals'

PAGE

Seed Certification Services Withdrawn

AS the result of an investigation by officers of the Fields Division, all certification services in respect of all seed handled by Messrs. Langleys, Hastings, have been withdrawn by the Department of Agriculture.

Accordingly, Messrs. Langleys have been advised that no officer of the Department will be available for the supervision of the machine dressing, sealing and tagging of seed in their stores, that no application by them for field services will be accepted, and that the Department is not prepared to supply this firm with certified Government stock seeds, or any other seed available for sale by the Department.

Proof That Wool Classing Pays

BEFORE the outbreak of war and the introduction of the wool appraisement scheme, or the "Com-mandeer" as it was more popularly known, farmers frequently argued that wool classing was not a paying proposition. In isolated instances they were right, but in general and over a period they were definitely wrong, for classing did pay—and still does. The line of argument generally adopted was that farmer "A" who **did not** class got just as good a price, or a better price,

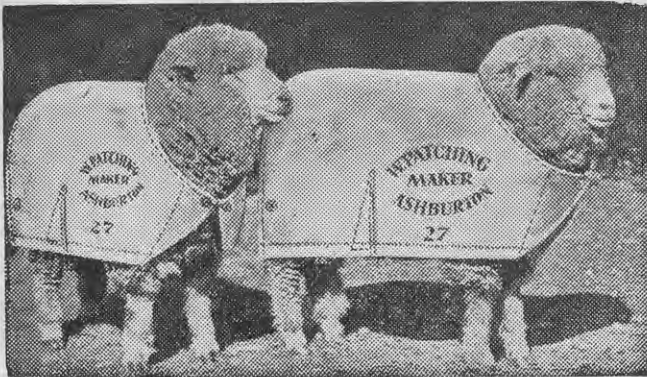
for his wool than "B," his neighbour, with similar sheep and wool, who went to the expense of classing. There is a fallacy in the argument, but many of those who propound it either cannot or will not see it.

One of the first points to be taken into account is the question of the yield of the wool—that is, the amount of clean scoured wool left after all impurities have been removed. A difference of 5 per cent. or 6 per cent. in yield would be quite imperceptible to

the average farmer, yet it would make a difference of nearly 2d per lb. to the price he received for it. Apart from yield, there are many other points which would affect the value of the two clips which might easily be overlooked by the layman, for example, differences in length, count, soundness, colour, and handle. Moreover, in pre-war times direct comparisons were valid only when the two clips were sold at the same sale—preferably about the same time—because of the notorious fluctuations of the market.

Today all these conditions, except the last, still hold good, and another, the most convincing argument of all in favour of classing, has always been valid—today more so than ever. It is a fact that wool dealers can make a living by buying poorly-classed or unclassed clips, and after carefully re-classing them on their own premises they are able to dispose of them at a profit.

Before the war, dealers operated both at the auction sales and in the country, buying direct from the farmer. Today, there are no longer



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