

wool auction sales, as all the wool is bought on behalf of the British Government on a fixed scale of values, but licensed wool dealers still can, and do, buy direct from the farmer. It is stated that some of them who specialise in the business are actually able to offer the farmer a better price than he would receive by offering his wool for appraisal in the ordinary way.

This seeming anomaly is explained by the old argument that CLASSING PAYS. Many farmers are still content to send in their clips for sale without adequate preparation—sometimes without even attempting to remove bellies and skirtings. A clip of this sort meets its just deserts, and is penalised by the appraisers when it is valued. On the other hand, the wool dealer, operating in a given district and fully familiar with local conditions and types of wool, can afford to offer the farmer a little more than ruling commandeer prices. He can do this because on proper classing the particular clip in question will yield several distinct lines of wool, and when these in their properly-prepared state are offered for sale they will fetch enough to pay all expenses and also yield a profit. The buyer's profit is the farmer's loss.

The moral from the farmer's point of view is to give more time and attention to preparing his clip for market. With a medium-sized clip, or bigger, he can do it himself, or employ a classer, or get his broker to do it. The small clip, however, is usually the one most affected by these conditions, and does not generally allow of much classing. However, the least the farmer can do is remove the bellies, and preferably skirt as well. He will usually be able to make one or two main lines of wool, but all small quantities of oddments should be sent in to a broker (preferably one who specialises in binning) for handling. These firms have adequate facilities for the proper handling of any line of wool, and, no matter how small the quantity, it will be grouped with fleeces of the same type until a large even line is assembled, which will thus fetch the farmer the full market value of his wool, less the small charge for binning.

## Fertiliser Rationing

UNDER the fertiliser rationing scheme, farmers will be able to receive 40 per cent. of the average annual amount of phosphate which they have used during the past two

seasons. This percentage has been fixed after an examination of approximately 70,000 returns which were recently made by farmers through their merchants.

However, the attention of farmers is drawn to the fact that arrangements have been made which will enable them to obtain other types of phosphate for topdressing, or cropping, in place of superphosphates if they so desire.

All farmers' rations are expressed in terms of superphosphate, but this can be replaced by other types of phosphate in conformity with the following table:—

| Name of Manure.                    | Weight which may be delivered in place of 1 ton of Super. |
|------------------------------------|---|
|                                    | Tons cwt.   |
| 1. Superphosphate .. .. .          | 1 0   |
| 2. Basic Super .. .. .             | 1 4   |
| 3. Reverted Super .. .. .          | 1 4   |
| 4. Serpentine Super .. .. .        | 1 7   |
| 5. Heskett Slag .. .. .            | 2 8   |
| Super and Lime (1:1) .. .. .       | 2 0   |
| " " " (2:1) .. .. .                | 1 10  |
| " " " (1:2) .. .. .                | 3 0   |
| Basic Slag .. .. .                 | 1 0   |
| Ammoniated Super (2S 1A) .. .. .   | 1 10  |
| Potassic Basic Super .. .. .       | 1 5   |
| Potassic Super (5% potash) .. .. . | 1 1   |

To clarify the above the following example may be taken: (1) Farmer A's ration is 10 tons of phosphatic fertiliser. He orders superphosphate. He will get 10 tons of superphosphate. (2) Farmer B's ration is 10 tons of phosphatic fertiliser. He orders reverted superphosphate. He will get 12 tons of reverted superphosphate as his ration.

In the event of farmers ordering mixtures for topdressing or cropping,

the farmer's merchant must compute the amount of phosphate in the mixture, and the farmer will not be entitled to receive more phosphate than his ration entitles him to.

## Britain Needs Cheese

THE vital importance of the drive for the production of greatest possible quantity of cheese is strikingly indicated by an extract from a letter received this month from Mr. G. V. Were, a dairy instructor and grader, of the Dairy Division, who is at present on loan to the High Commissioner's Office, London. Mr. Were, who has acted as dairy grader and instructor in the Wairarapa, Waikato, and North Auckland districts, has been in the thick of a number of severe air raids. He writes as follows:—

"Food is one of our major problems of the moment. Our week's ration of meat by careful cutting lasts two meals and the bacon ration one. Substitutes for meat have to be found for four days weekly, and that is not easy. If only we could obtain more cheese we could get along nicely. Cheese at present is a far more important item of diet than butter. We have to spread butter so thinly that we may as well use margarine for all the flavour we get from it, unless it is bad.

"If our dairymen in New Zealand could fully appreciate the need for more cheese in this country I feel sure that they would gladly make what comparatively small sacrifice this involves by having their milk converted into cheese instead of butter."

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