

To meet these abnormal conditions the Government is arranging finance for the erection of emergency digester plants, and action has already been taken to procure the steel required for the manufacture of these plants from the United States of America.

Serpentine-Superphosphate

AN article in this issue summarises the first year's result of experiments with the new mixture, serpentine-superphosphate, and gives preliminary recommendations regarding its use. Farmers will no doubt be greatly interested in the degree of success that has been obtained with this fertiliser. While no magical properties are claimed for the manure, the trials suggest that it has a definite place as a fertiliser, and that in certain districts its use should rapidly become widespread.

The investigation leading up to the production of this material on a commercial scale has been a good example of team work between officers of several Departments, who have been generously assisted by the fertiliser manufacturers and by numerous

Proposed Increase in Canning Capacity

SUBSTANTIAL increases are being made in the output of canned meat. The present capacity of the plants in the Dominion, based on an eight-hour day, is 9,600 tons of canned meat, which is equivalent to 16,000 tons of boned meat. Finance has been arranged on plant ordered for the handling of a further 12,400 tons of canned meat, which is equivalent to 21,000 tons of boned meat. Thus, the total capacity of New Zealand plants will be 22,000 tons of canned meat, which is the equivalent of 37,000 tons of boned meat.

Canning plants can be operated for 10 hours daily without undue strain on the female staff. Thus, if required, the total output can be increased by 20 per cent., bringing the total to 26,400 tons of canned meat, which is equivalent to 44,000 tons of boned meat.

This potential capacity would be sufficient to deal with all boned cow beef, all second grade quarter beef, and 2,000,000 ewe carcasses. This is above the number of ewes ever killed for export in one season.

If this quantity of canned meat were shipped in the usual way as refrigerated cargo, it would represent 75,000 tons, and the envisaged canning programme saves refrigerated shipping and local cool storage space to that extent.

Plant for the increased capacity should be in operation early in 1942.

farmers who have participated in co-operative trials. The total of 237 field trials laid down by the Fields Division is a creditable achievement, which has produced fruitful results. In the

coming season the help of Young Farmers' Clubs and pupils of District High Schools will further extend the scope of field experimental work with the material.

Linen Flax Exhibit



The accompanying photograph shows the exhibit of linen flax arranged by the Fields Division, Department of Agriculture, and on display in the Wellington Public Library. The exhibit shows the various stages in growing and processing the crop, and stresses its importance both to Great Britain and New Zealand.



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