

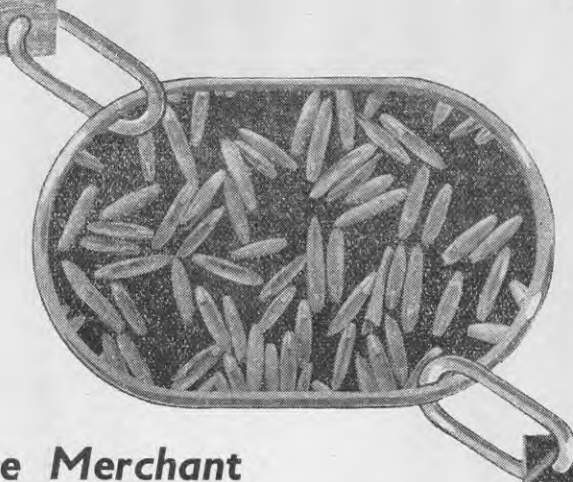


Clean Seed Production

In Otago

By
S. H. SAXBY,
Instructor in Agriculture,
Dunedin.

The Link Between The Farmer And The Merchant



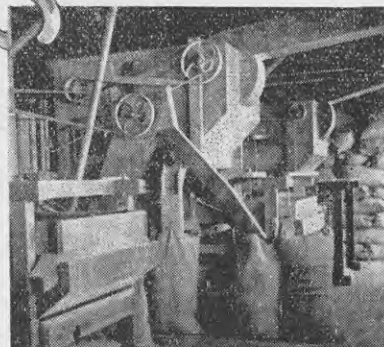
FOR many years a number of mercantile firms in New Zealand have specialised in the cleaning of farm seeds, and improvements in both machinery and methods have been made continuously, with the result that at the present time the standard of seed-cleaning is very high.

The New Zealand seed trade has to supply two markets. Firstly, there is the New Zealand or local market, and, secondly, there is the export or overseas market, which is worth some quarter of a million pounds each year to New Zealand. Overseas buyers demand that the standard of purity of all seed must be of the highest. Consequently, New Zealand merchants are able to export only seed of the very highest purity, and it should therefore be the aim of every seed producer and dresser to produce not merely "seed" but "the purest seed."

In the seed trade, in which both farmers and merchants are participants, good quality, clean seed is marketed at a premium, and it should be the aim of every seed-producing farmer to assist both himself and the seed cleaner by harvesting seed with a minimum of undesirable impurities. By doing so, not only is the firm handling the seed able to make a more satisfactory job from the point of view of the subsequent sale of the seed, but also the farmer himself is assured of correspondingly low dressing losses, thus ensuring a better net return to himself.

Purity Standards

With the use of certified seeds, where the standard of purity required is comparatively high, the production of clean seed becomes more necessary, especially as the value of this seed is,



as a rule, higher than that ruling for ordinary commercial lines. The following purity standards which seed must reach before they may be finally sealed and bagged certified seed should serve as a guide to growers:—

Browntop (*Agrostis tenuis*).—Purity 97 per cent.

Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata*).—Purity 70 per cent with maximum of 5 per cent of ryegrass.

Use SHELL MOTOR OIL

