

danthonia country which has been repeatedly burned over it is frequently conspicuous only by its absence, and on such land much water will have run under the bridge before an appreciable return is obtained from topdressing. Moreover, the clover present may well be of a very inferior and low producing strain, having little value compared with modern clover standards.

While it is sometimes extremely difficult to decide whether topdressing alone will prove a practicable and effective method of renovation, a close examination of the proportion of the more valuable species of grasses and clovers will at any rate provide some indication, and this, in conjunction with any previous experience obtained by topdressing somewhat similar adjacent pastures, may enable the farmer to arrive at a reasonably safe decision.

### Ploughing and Resowing

Where the land is easily ploughable and the area not too extensive, and where the existing pasture is particularly poor, ploughing and resowing is likely to prove the best method of

renovation. If, in addition, the farmer can perform the whole of the work with his own labour, this may very confidently be recommended as the most satisfactory method. Whether or not the opportunity should be taken to crop the land before the final grassing must depend largely on circumstances. It should be borne in mind, however, that while cropping may reduce the overhead cost of grassing, the difference in value between a poor pasture and a really good pasture is so great that future prospects should not lightly be jeopardised merely for expediency or for present gain.

The speedy establishment of the more valuable pasture species is very largely dependent on the soil fertility, and where this is even a matter of doubt, every effort should be made to conserve the food reserves for the crop which matters most—the permanent pasture—rather than to dissipate this fertility on a crop which, after all, may be of only secondary importance.

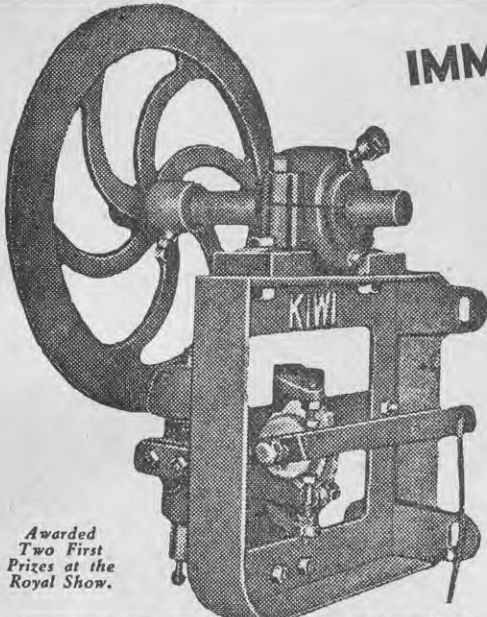
Under modern conditions, with the seeds and fertilisers now available, really excellent pastures can be com-

paratively easily established even on land which a generation ago was regarded as almost worthless. By ploughing, the inferior grasses and weeds are at once eliminated instead of having to be completely displaced over a period of years by the spreading of a relatively small proportion of the desirable grasses and clovers, encouraged by suitable topdressing.

The ploughing and cultivating raises the level of fertility, and at the same time permits of a full sowing of selected strains of the best species of grasses and clovers. Sown on a clean, well-prepared seed bed with no weed competition, these germinate quickly and speedily establish a high producing pasture. Although the cost may appear fairly high, the returns in proportion are still higher. There is no long interim period of waiting for results; with proper management, high production may be expected within a matter of months.

### Surface Sowing

Where, for various reasons, ploughing is either impracticable or inadvisable, the surface sowing of selected



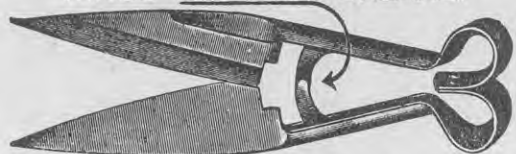
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