

of what the season will produce. As with all Nature, however, man can adapt her to his needs, and a little time and thought in this direction are well repaid.

The harvest must not be approached as if it were an after-thought, but with the real aim to produce seed in increased quantities. Give the pasture intended for seed production care comparable to that which is bestowed on a flock of ewes or a herd of dairy cattle. The results which will be shown in the seed crop will be no less astonishing. Certain plants are fairly exacting in their requirements before good seed crops can be expected, while others thrive under a wide range of conditions, so that ample scope exists for the farmer to grapple with this task in a manner most fitting to the existing conditions.

Perennial Ryegrass

Perennial ryegrass, for instance, can be produced under a wide range of conditions, although perhaps giving best results in Canterbury, Marlborough, Central and North Otago, Hawke's Bay, and Poverty Bay. It requires no elaborate treatment; a dominant perennial ryegrass sward closed up at the correct time and the adoption of up-to-date methods of harvesting are the essentials for success. Pastures of a mixed ryegrass-content—perennial and Italian—should be

avoided if possible. Every endeavour should be made to produce seed from areas sown with certified seed, and to have the produce certified also.

Italian Ryegrass

As with perennial ryegrass, Italian ryegrass seed production can be carried out under varied conditions. As this pasture plant is more in the nature of an annual, however, seed production is undertaken almost entirely in the

arable cropping districts. Here again, pastures of mixed Italian and perennial ryegrass should not be harvested for seed, and preference should be given to those areas sown with certified seed.

Cocksfoot

In comparison with the foregoing species, cocksfoot is very particular in regard to the conditions necessary for ideal seed production. Cocksfoot seed is at all times liable to be low in purity due to the presence of considerable proportions of empty husks, while the presence of ryegrass seeds in appreciable quantity detracts materially from the value of the sample. Cocksfoot areas for seed production are established solely with that view, so that a rapid extension cannot be expected. This is unfortunate, as the prime need of Great Britain is for cocksfoot, but much can be done to see



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[H. Drake, photo.]



Threshing grass seed by means of the "tin-mill."

[H. Drake, photo.]

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