

# Liming Pays in the Hutt and Makara Counties

**O**UTSTANDING responses to liming have been obtained in both the Hutt and Makara Counties. The clay hill country of such localities as the Ohariu Valley, Haywards, Tawa Flat, and around Porirua, as well as the lower foothills of the ranges from Otaki north, have long been known to give a good response to basic slag, but besides being unprocurable for some time, basic slag is difficult to handle and to sow on hill country.

In order to find an alternative to basic slag a number of observational trials were established some three years ago by the Instructor in these two counties. Without exception, these trials have clearly shown that adequate liming is essential to good results from phosphate manuring, and that provided the lime shortage is put right, very good results can be obtained by the use of superphosphate.

Liming alone is not advocated, because the phosphate is still required to give really good results. The trials referred to are on the farms of Messrs. Gordon Bros., Ohariu Valley, W. S. Kells, Haywards, C. G. Steel, Takapu North, Tawa Flat, W. Mexted, Porirua, and C. C. Holmes, Otaki.

On Messrs. Gordon Bros.' farm the limed area is outstanding, and is visible from the hills more than two miles away, but on each of the other areas very good results from the addition of lime have been obtained. It takes about one year for the lime to show up well, but when it does there can be no mistake about its value or the fact that liming pays on this type of country.

Farmers topdressing any of the clay hill and rolling country of the Hutt and Makara Counties can definitely use lime freely to assist in getting returns during the present shortage of phosphate manures.

—G. S. ROBINSON, *Instructor in Agriculture, Levin.*

## Jam From Powder

**N**EW storage processes for fruit have been devised by chemists at Bristol University Research Station. The work was originally designed to meet the problem of Britain's own surplus fruit, but, with the cessation of imports, the results are now available for Empire producers.

Surplus apples are economically stored, with great saving in space, in the form of apple juice and apple treacle. Natural sugar makes this product extremely sweet, and it is a valuable substitute for sugar in all forms of household cooking.

Soft fruit, plums and apples are reduced to a dry fine powder, useful for food processing. Plum powder can be made into jam at any time of the year.

In their work on blackcurrant syrups, the experts have found that,

after a long period of storage, there was present, in some cases, double the amount of Vitamin C (a preventative against scurvy) as in fresh citrus juices. The shortage of Vitamin A has also drawn attention to the need for using all surplus carrots, and a powder is now being extracted commercially in plant normally used for the spray drying of milk.

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