

Details regarding the collection of and payment for ergot are to be found elsewhere in this issue.

New Type of Ryegrass

A NEW type of ryegrass for short rotational pastures has been tried out by the Grasslands Division of the Plant Research Bureau. This new grass is the result of crossing Italian ryegrass with pedigree perennial ryegrass, and the careful selection of the best strains.

The type which has been evolved is admirably adapted for sowing down short rotational pastures, as it is high in yield and more perennial than Italian ryegrass. This new grass will shortly be put under certification by the Department of Agriculture, and it is hoped before long that this succulent, high-yielding grass will be available to farmers.

It will be particularly suitable for the South Island, where short rotational pastures are widely sown.

Increase in Amount of Wool Scoured

THERE has been a remarkable increase in the amount of wool scoured in New Zealand. The whole of the scouring plants are working double or treble shifts under contract to the British Government, and in the coming season will handle about 16 per cent. of the total amount of greasy wool produced in the Dominion.

This activity in New Zealand will speed up the further processing and manufacture of the wool in the United Kingdom, and there is no doubt that it is a valuable, if little known, part of our war effort.

Agricultural Regulations.

By A. E. MORRISON, Solicitor,
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IMPORTATION OF PIGS.

BEFORE the making of the Stock Importation Amending Regulations, 1941, persons desiring to import pigs from Australia were required to obtain a permit to import from the Minister of Agriculture. Where permission to import was granted, it was necessary that each consignment should be accompanied by a declaration of freedom from disease duly verified by the certificate of a Government Veterinarian of the State of exportation.

As the result of the discovery of the disease kidney worm in pigs which had been imported from Australia, the amending regulations impose further restrictions on importations from the Commonwealth. In addition to requiring a permit to import, the amending regulations call for a declaration by the shipper as to the locality or place where the pigs were bred or raised and a declaration that they have been in the State of exportation since birth. The declaration must be supported by a veterinarian's certificate to the effect that the disease kidney worm does not exist in the locality where the pigs were bred or raised, and that the agglutination test for *brucellosis suis* (abortion infection) was applied to the animals with negative results.

FEE FOR INSPECTION OF PIGS.

THE fee for the inspection of pigs slaughtered in an abattoir or a freezing works as laid down by the Meat Regulations, 1940, is 4d. per pig, 2d. of which has, since 1937, been set aside as a special fund to provide an instructional and advisory service for the development of the pig industry by means of the setting up of a National Pig Industry Council and District Pig Councils representative of all interests in the trade.

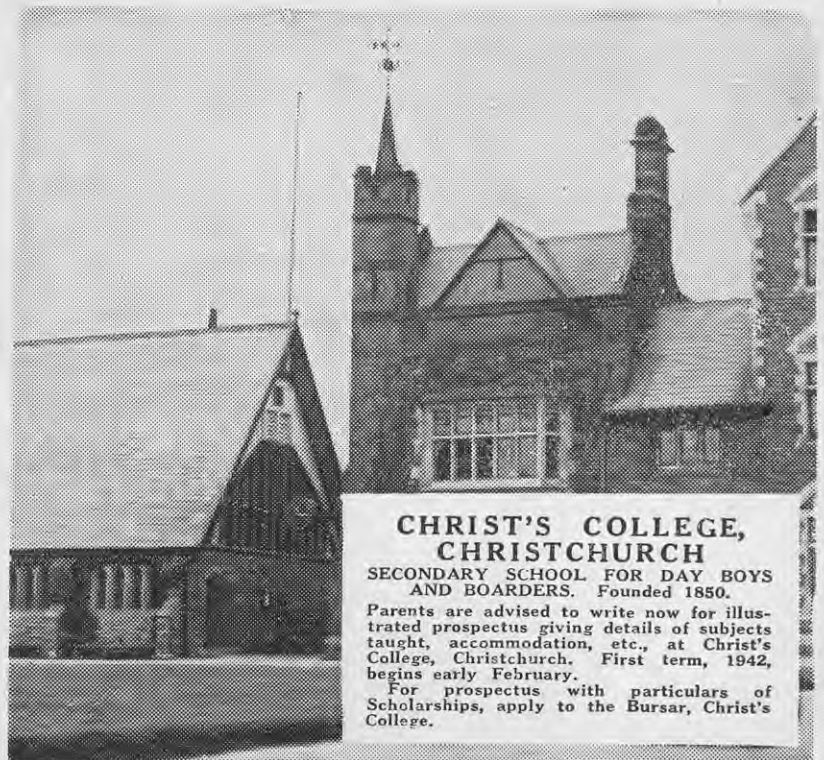
As the revenue from the 2d. per pig

as so set aside has not been sufficient to defray the annual expenditure of the pig councils in providing the instructional and advisory service, the amending regulations increase the inspection fee on pigs by 1d. per pig in order that the revenue derived from the increase in the fee can be made available for the benefit of the pig industry through the organisations already referred to.

FERTILISER CERTIFICATES.

IN setting out in invoice certificates to be supplied to purchasers of superphosphate the percentage of soluble phosphoric acid present in the fertiliser, vendors are, by regulations under the Fertilisers Act, 1927, allowed a limit of error of 0.75 per cent. of the whole bulk.

As a substantial proportion of lower-grade phosphate is now being received for manufacture, the amending regulations increase as a temporary measure during the continuance of the present war the limit of error in respect of the certified percentage of soluble phosphoric acid present in superphosphate to 1.15 per cent., and also make a proportionate increase in the limits of error in respect of the percentage of soluble and insoluble phosphoric acid in compound manures containing superphosphate.



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