

A POVERTY BAY HILL-COUNTRY FARM

controlled by stock. This focused attention on closer subdivision so that big numbers of sheep and cattle could be concentrated on to smaller areas and so ensure full utilisation of fodder and a greater return of stock excrements. Consequently, subdivision was planned to facilitate stock control, and additional stockyards and fences were erected on lines which led to easier working of the property.

The areas of the paddocks now are as follows:—

Hill	
More than 400 acres	— 2
300-400 "	— 2
200-300 "	— 3
100-200 "	— 5
Less than 100 "	— 7
Flats	
More than 20 acres	— 1
10-20 "	— 3
Less than 10 "	— 25

The closer subdivision undoubtedly paid handsomely, as in three years the originally-sown English grasses re-established and for the most part began to dominate the native grasses. With this improvement in the pastures came increased production in wool, fat lambs, sheep, and cattle.

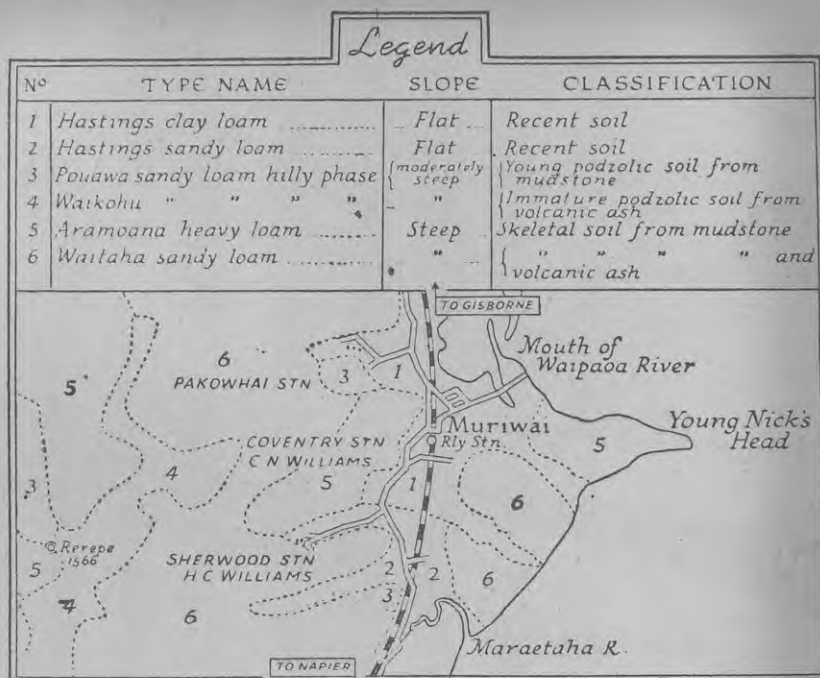
The planning of plantations was linked with the placing of drafting yards. Suitable timber for yard maintenance was planted at, or in the vicinity of, the stockyard sites.

Topography and Soils

The two properties together consist of 3,800 acres of hill country and 200 acres of flat.

There is relatively little difference in the steepness of the hill country. The whole area is moderately steep with some easier country, the highest point on the stations being 1,500ft. None of the hill country is ploughable and development, therefore, has been dependent on stock and pasture management. The soils are mainly of mudstone with several outcrops of limestone and sandstone. The pastures are mainly ryegrass, white clover, dogtail, annual clovers, subterranean clovers, danthonia, and some brown-top. Ryegrass and white clover are dominant on the topdressed paddocks, but on the lighter, drier northern slopes danthonia is dominant.

The flats are of rich alluvial soil and grow excellent ryegrass-white clover pastures. Careful use of superphosphate has to be made, otherwise the stimulus to the white clover will result in its marked dominance over the perennial ryegrass. Excellent crops of rape, maize, lucerne, and meadow hay are taken off the flats, and on several occasions very payable white clover seed crops have been obtained.



Classification of soil types on the Sherwood and Coventry stations.

Pasture Development

The felled bush land before 1905 had been surface sown with a 15lb. mixture containing cocksfoot, perennial ryegrass, *Poa pratensis*, and clovers. Since then the mixture used both on bush clearings and on manuka areas which have been cleared from time to time has been as follows:—

Perennial ryegrass	..	20lb.
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	..	11b.
Crested dogtail	..	11b.
White clover	..	11b.
Yarrow	..	1oz.

In recent years some of the home hill paddocks have been surface sown with subterranean clover and paspalum. The paspalum has been very slow in establishment, but on the drier, topdressed hills subterranean clover has done very well.

Through careful management a dominance of ryegrass and white clover over the danthonia has been maintained, except on the dry, hard, steep northern slopes.

Very little surface sowing has been done, the aim always being to achieve a balanced sward through judicious stocking.

Farm Equipment

The well-built, spacious woolshed was originally an 8-stand shed, but has been reduced to 6. It contains a well-constructed foot-rot trough with adequate floor space to dry sheep out after

passing them through the bath. The modern type of tip-dip is situated by the stockyards and all this equipment is supplied with a plentiful flow of fresh spring water. The main cattle-drafting yards are situated centrally and four other complete yards and two docking yards are at convenient points on the station. The woolshed is constructed to serve as an implement shed, and there are hay barns and stables on the property.

Water Supply

The water supply for the whole property is excellent and even during the recent drought the creeks fed by numerous springs were never dry. The supply for Sherwood is piped about 80 chains from a reservoir which is fed by five springs, and the supply for Coventry is piped about 240 chains and supplies the homestead and all the flat paddocks. The normal supply from this spring is between 5,000 and 6,000 gallons a day. Adequate water is assured under any conditions in all but two paddocks, and it is rarely that the creeks in these dry up. The flat paddocks are furnished with concrete troughs which serve two paddocks at once, and regular supplies are piped from the main spring. There are seven permanent troughs, twelve single movable concrete troughs, and three of tin.

Shelter

Two plantations were planted solely for shelter. An additional twelve