bridge the gap (estimated at 10,000,000 metric tons or its equivalent) between the supplies available and those required; and plans for increasing the next year's harvest to meet the needs of 1947-48. Among the items designed to maximise the available food suuplies was a study of the prevention of wastage of food through the depredation of insects, mites, rodents, and mould fungi.

The International Emergency Food Council began its meetings on June 20. Through the Supply Mission in Washington, New Zealand has representation on several of the committees.

To keep both the general public and those actively interested in FAO's work fully informed of all activities, a number of publications has been issued, one of which, the "Information Service Bulletin," is essentially a news organ intended for wide distribution.

A further conference was held last year at Copenhagen from September 2 to 13, when the general work of the organisation was further advanced.

Future of Organisation

Even the most sanguine do not expect large-scale significant results from FAO's work for a number of years—in fact, generations will probably pass before some of the hoped-for results will be brought about and the long-range planning of today bears fruition. In the meantime what difficulties will FAO have to face?

A common criticism is that any attempt to balance the overproduction of the Western World against the low living standards of the Eastern World will mean, in effect, that the advanced countries will carry the backward ones on their shoulders—"the white man's burden." This attitude of mind cannot be too strongly deprecated. It is true that FAO will be up against something much more complex than technical problems of increasing the world's food supply, thorny as they may prove: There looms the all-important question of distribution. How can countries such as India and China pay for additional food imports? In part by raw materials and in part by manufactured goods; but if by the latter, it may be questioned whether the food-exporting countries, which are in most cases also extensive manufacturing countries such as U.S.A., Canada, and Australia, will accept manufactured goods which may compete with their own manufactures. And, in the meantime, how will the food-importing countries finance their additional food imports? The answer is, of course, by international credits furnished by the advanced countries through the new international machinery set up for the purpose.

But the backward countries need something more than that: They require assistance to catch up with the Western World in technical progress. That will necessarily involve getting the best technical aid and advice from the advanced countries. In countries where subsistence farming is the rule agricultural efficiency can be improved only by reducing the number of uneconomic small holdings, the surplus rural population being absorbed in the manufacturing and processing industries and in the administrative services which will have to be built up.

Not Based on Charity

The market for goods which will automatically develop will be enormous. One cannot do better than quote Sir John Boyd Orr's words: "FAO is not based on charity. The responsibility of the advanced nations is not one of charity. It might be nearer the truth to say that it is a matter of survival. Farmers in the highly-developed countries, especially the United States, remember only too well the troubles of the inter-war period with its ruinous prices caused by 'surpluses' of food while half the world lacked bread. The fact is that the great productive capacity given to industry and agriculture by modern science must be put to full use, it must find outlets, or the economic and social system will go to pieces under the strain."

There are, in the meantime, countless ways in which FAO can be of service to the world. It can do much to procure more speedy application of the findings of science to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, marketing, and food consumption, and it can encourage and facilitate new surveys and new projects of development.

The world food emergency will probably last to a varying degree for three or four years. Any effective world plan worked out by the nations for dealing with it can be dovetailed with the longer-term undertaking of FAO which looks toward freeing the world from hunger permanently.

Improved Strain of Timothy Now Available

By J. H. CLARIDGE, *Agronomist, Wellington.*

SUPPLIES of an improved strain of Certified timothy pasture seed are now available in New Zealand. That development assumes added importance in the light of the rapid increase in production of this seed in the Dominion in the past 10 years. Instead of importing up to 100 tons a year, on the basis of the 1946 crop the country has become virtually self-supporting in timothy seed.

TIMOTHY is one of the few pasture plant seeds which in the past has not been produced in New Zealand in sufficient quantities to meet the country's requirements, and seed has been imported from the United States of America to supplement the relatively small production. It is estimated that during the three years preceding the war 100 tons or a little more of imported seed was sufficient, with the New Zealand crop, to meet domestic needs. During the war the importation of timothy was restricted to bare necessities and the retail market was at times undersupplied. That may explain the big increase in New Zealand production, which has risen from 37 tons (the produce of 380 acres) in the 1936-37 season to 127 tons (from 1086 acres) in the 1945-46 season.

American Seed Inferior

An observation of the various strains of timothy has shown that the seed imported from America is usually of an inferior type, and Dominion-grown seed has been slightly better. But seed of the S.48 strain of timothy raised by the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth is vastly superior to any natural strains for fodder production.

Seed of this strain was introduced into this country a few years ago, and has been multiplied under certification until more than 100 acres, averaging 231lb. an acre of machine-dressed seed, were saved for seed last year. Supplies of Certified Standard timothy seed produced from these areas are now on the market, and farmers may with advantage include this seed in pasture mixtures where the species is desired.

A selection of timothy more adapted to New Zealand conditions than the S.48 strain is at present being multiplied, and when supplies are available seed will be distributed through commercial channels

By encouraging production of Certified timothy seed it is hoped that importations may be eliminated in favour of superior New Zealand-grown seed. Another aspect that should not be lost sight of is the possibility of developing production until supplies of Certified seed are available for export.