

EARLY TOPDRESSING TRIALS

In 1904 the pasture on the Big Hill Field consisted mainly of dantonia and sweet vernal with a small proportion of cocksfoot, Yorkshire fog, and white clover. This old pasture was disced, harrowed, and topdressed with 2cwt. of basic slag. Thirty-three acres were over-sown with cocksfoot, timothy, and red clover.

In 1905 the pasture received 2½cwt. of basic slag and 2cwt. of superphosphate in August and a further 2½cwt. of slag in June, 1906. The dressings of slag developed white clover growth and this in turn was reflected in a much better grass growth, and in 1907 the pasture was described as follows:—

"Predominating grasses—cocksfoot, ryegrass, sweet vernal, white clover, dantonia, and Yorkshire fog; weeds—hawkweed, dandelion, and sorrel."

The results obtained from slag topdressing of this field were so outstanding that they were of considerable importance in influencing farmers to adopt slag for general topdressing purposes.

BIG HILL FIELD—RUAKURA.



Above—Sir William Somerville, Director of Cockle Park, Northumberland.

Left—TREE FIELD, COCKLE PARK, NORTHUMBERLAND, the most famous slag field in the world. Experiments with slag were started there in 1896 and are still carried on.