

N.Z. Grassland Association Conference at Timaru

THE fourteenth conference of the New Zealand Grassland Association held at Timaru during the last week of November was very largely attended at all sessions by delegates representing a wide range of interests, including a number of overseas visitors.

HEAVY rain caused the abandonment of the second farm visit that had been arranged, but there was a large attendance at the substituted programme of a quiz session and continuation of discussion on tussock grassland.

The mayor of Timaru, Mr. W. L. Richards, Mr. E. J. Henshaw, president of the South Canterbury executive of Federated Farmers, and the president, Mr. R. H. Bevin, welcomed delegates. The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. K. J. Holyoake, stressed in his address officially opening the conference the early recognition in New Zealand of grass as a crop and the importance of such conferences in the advancement of the science of pasture establishment and management. Grassland improvement, he said, offered the one sure hope of advancing the dietary standards of the world.

A list of the principal papers at the conference is given on this page. The printed proceedings of the conference, including discussion of papers and at the field day, will be available about April or May. Full members of the association are automatically sent copies of the proceedings. Others desiring them should place orders early with the secretary of the association, Box 2298, Wellington.

The symposium on tussock grassland and papers on molybdenum created particular interest at this conference. The projection of excellent colour slides showing establishment of clover on high country, grassland improvement on Mr. R. K. Ireland's "Ribbonwood" Station, Mackenzie Country, and molybdenum responses in North Otago lent particular value to these sessions. Runholders, research workers, and soil conservators were prominent in subsequent discussion.

In papers and discussion on molybdenum emphasis was placed on the incompleteness of knowledge yet available, the apparent need for only minimum application rates, and the wisdom of having extension advice before molybdenum is applied.

Both in the conference and on Mr. F. R. Clarke's farm at Levels keen interest, especially by farmers, was shown in the sowing of pastures with the Blackmore coulters. Indicative of the conditions under which farming under low-rainfall conditions was studied at this conference was the fact that the plot on Mr. Clarke's farm showing different methods of sowing had

received nearly 8 in. of rainfall in the 3 weeks since sowing out. The Downlands Water Supply Scheme and the benefits South Canterbury farming had received from its irrigation were discussed between showers that continued practically throughout the conference.

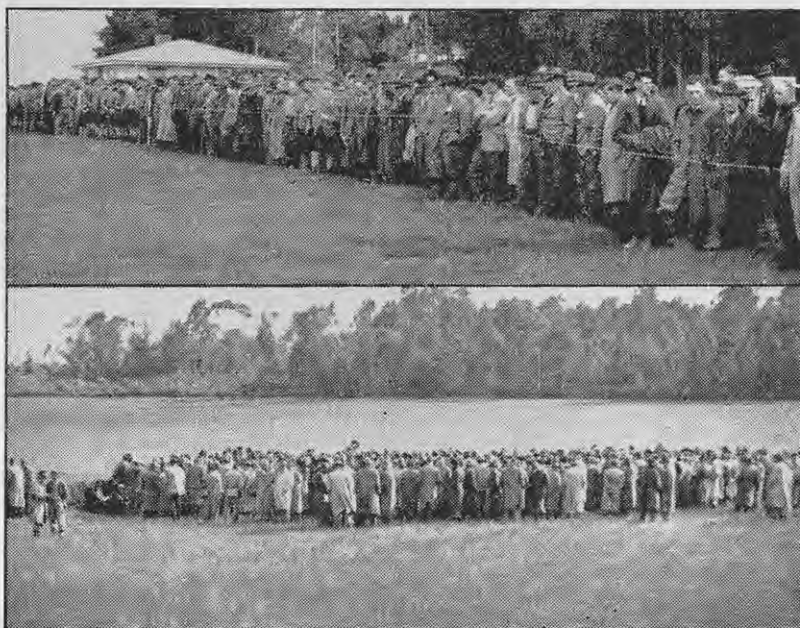
Rotations as the basis of grassland farming were the principal theme of

the discussion on the farm visit and at a session on downlands farming.

Officers; Subsequent Conferences

At the annual meeting Professor A. W. Hudson (Massey Agricultural College) was elected president, with the following executive: Vice-president, Mr. G. A. Holmes (Superintendent, Department of Agriculture Invermay Research Station); immediate past president, Mr. R. H. Bevin (Chief Executive Officer, New Zealand Meat and Wool Boards' Economic Service, Christchurch); secretary, Mr. S. H. Saxby (Department of Agriculture, Wellington), Mr. L. Corkill (Grasslands Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Palmerston North), and Mr. J. E. Bell (Department of Agriculture, Auckland).

The 1953 Grassland Association conference will be held at Whangarei and Nelson will probably be the venue in 1954.



Conference's field day at the farm of Mr. F. R. Clarke, Levels. Upper—Inspection of the trial plots showing results of different methods of sowing pasture seed. Lower—Halt for discussion in a paddock closed for the taking of a clover seed crop. Beyond the hedge is a pea crop.

Conference Papers

- "An Introduction to South Canterbury", W. C. Stafford and R. H. Scott.
- "Blind Seed Disease of Ryegrass", P. B. Lynch.
- "Control of Odontria", J. M. Kelsey.
- "Methods of Pasture Establishment", L. W. Blackmore.
- "Experimental Work on Cocksfoot Seed Production", W. G. Thurston and J. P. Lambert.
- Presidential Address, R. H. Bevin.
- "The Nutritive Value of Some High-country Pasture Species", I. E. Coop.
- "The Changing Tussock Grasslands", R. D. Dick.
- "Tussock Grassland Investigation", T. G. Sewell.
- "Tussock Grassland: Marginal Land", R. K. Ireland.
- "Farming Foothill Country", A. H. Flay.
- "The Development of a Loburn Foothill Farm", P. H. McGloin.
- "Growth Habits of Short-rotation and Perennial Ryegrass", K. J. Mitchell.
- "Seeding Rates of Short-rotation Ryegrass", R. W. Brougham.
- "Molybdenum Research in New Zealand", E. B. Davies.
- "Molybdenum in North Otago", W. R. Lobb.
- "Molybdenum Responses at Invermay", G. A. Holmes.
- "Molybdenum and Legumes", A. F. R. Adams.
- "The Statistician and Pasture Trials", A. C. Glenday.
- "Storage of the Seeds of Pasture Plants", E. O. C. Hyde.