FOOT-ROT ERADICATION SCHEME

At a meeting in the area at which the objectives of the scheme were stated, and which was attended by all sheep farmers in the district except three, all except one person agreed to participate; even the three who could not attend had sent word of their willingness to co-operate.

The farmers were visited and asked to make sure their fences and gates were sheep proof. Also, the provision of a suitable foot-rot bath and yards, and hospital, convalescent, and clean paddocks was discussed by the Livestock Instructors.

Goats were coming in on some farms from reservations and the surrounding bush country. These goats were eradicated with the help of the Department of Internal Affairs, which arranged a team of cullers, who slaughtered 367 goats, of which 16 per cent. were infected with foot-rot.

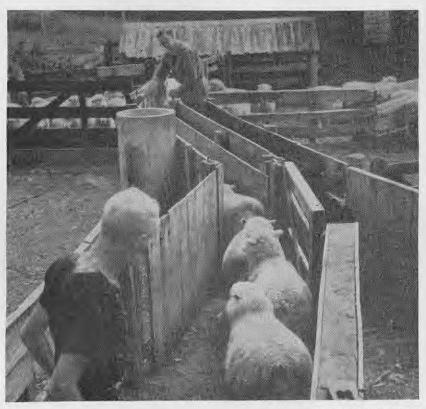
The Purua area is fairly well isolated by rivers, undeveloped gumland, and bush country. A small part of the boundary abuts one sheep property not in the scheme, and part of the boundary abuts dairy farms. Practically no sheep traffic passes through the area on foot, as most of the movement is by lorry.

Foot-rot Scheme

On each farm paddock arrangements were planned, and the whole flock,

30

21,795



[Northland Photography

A When the sheep are being put through the foot-rot bath any signs of recurrent lameness can be watched for by the farmer and the Livestock Instructor.

No. of farms Infected No. of sheep Free 2,441 (11%) 8,858 (41%) 30 10,496 (48%) INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO FARM SIZE No. of sheep in flocks No. of Doubtful Infected Total Free farms 66 (4%) 490 (9%) 1,162 (14%) 102 (4%) 621 (15%) 0-500 501-1.000 1,605 5.287 441 (28%) 2,077 (39%) 3,216 (39%) 1,756 (69%) 1,098 (68% 2,720 (52% 3,883 (47% 715 (27% 11 3,883 (47% 715 (27% 442 (11%) 1,001-2,000 8,261 5 2.001-3.000 2.573 3,006 (74%) 30 21,795 2,441 (11%) 10,496 (48%) 8,858 (41%) INCIDENCE ACCORDING TO UTILISATION No. of No. of Type of Doubtful Infected farm Fat lamb farms 15 sheep Free 1,009 (16%) 685 (10%) 747 (9%) 2,258 (36%) 4,450 (64%) 2,996 (48%) 1,798 (26%) 6,263 Store 4 6.933 Mixed 11 8,599 4,064 (47%)

INITIAL INCIDENCE OF FOOT-ROT OVER WHOLE AREA

COMPARISON OF FLOCKS AT ORIGINAL EXAMINATION (JANUARY-MARCH 1956) AND AT OCTOBER 1956

| | | Comment Comment |
|--|--------------------|--|
| No. of farms not in scheme | 6 32 2 30 | October 1956 No. of farms withdrawn: (a) Handling difficulties |
| FOOT-ROT INCIDEN All farms were infected Incidence Clean . 2,441 Doubtful 10,496 Infected 8,858 Total 21,795 | Per cent. 11 48 41 | No. of farms still in scheme |

Note: Totals do not agree because of introductions and withdrawals.

which was classed as infected to start with, was concentrated in one part of the farm with handy access to the shed, and the remainder of the paddocks were spelled for at least 3 weeks. These clean paddocks were then divided into convalescent and hospital paddocks, and others were left for sheep when they were declared clean. The paddocks were so arranged that the sheep which had been treated could leave the yards from the foot bath for their particular paddocks without travelling over a route already contaminated by infected sheep as they travelled to and from the yards for inspection and treatment.

The first time a foot-rot team started on a property every sheep was examined. The feet were pared to a normal shape, or if foot-rot were suspected, the feet were pared until all doubtful or infected tissue was removed. The Livestock Instructor in charge of each group was personally responsible for grading each sheep according to whether it was free of foot-rot, whether it was doubtful if foot-rot were present, or whether the animal was infected. Also, it was his responsibility to check each foot before the sheep was let out of the