

Sufficient inducement could be offered a man to undertake the responsibility of running a demonstration farm under budgetary control. He would have to be paid the standard rate for management in line with the allowance under this heading made on properties of a similar size, and he could also be given the option of purchasing the freehold on an instalment mortgage at the end of a period of, say, five years. The price of the property would require to be the original purchase price less any accrued equity as the result of efficient management. This manager would be assisting in the preparation of the budgetary programme and would be co-operating with the specialists during the whole period in which the farm was being used for demonstration purposes.

There is much that could be achieved in such a plan over a five-year period. First, the practical application of the latest scientific economic farming methods would be demonstrated to all the farmers in the district in a form which would be readily acceptable to the majority. Secondly, the general production of the farm itself should have increased over the years, besides being of a better quality. Thirdly, a certain number of the surrounding farmers would have adopted at least some of the methods demonstrated with a consequent increase in the

quantity and quality of their produce. Fourthly, a returned serviceman has been indemnified against loss for a period of five years, during which time he has gained invaluable experience in addition to becoming the owner of the farm at the end of the period at the original cost, less any accrued equity.

The whole scheme is costless with the exception of the time expended by the experts, which in any case would not be charged against the property. It could well be that the time spent by these men in this connection would achieve substantially better results than if they were spending it in an endeavour to induce the farmers to adopt their ideas without any practical demonstration.

The effect that a Dominion-wide scheme of this nature would have on primary production in New Zealand cannot be estimated. It would mean that farmers would be producing the materials and goods for which there would be the greatest demand. The quality of New Zealand's exports would improve, thus ensuring a more ready market for them. Good husbandry would become firmly established and the fertility of the land would be maintained and improved. Thus would the rich farmlands of New Zealand be preserved and the natural wealth of the country retained.

