

use of sacks so small as to prove uneconomic, the standard specification will do much to resolve the conflicts that have recurred from time to time in connection with excessive loaded weights. It will have the further value of reducing the inestimable social and individual loss involved in the disabilities and premature incapacitation caused, directly or indirectly, by lifting excessive weights, especially in the case of elderly people or immature youths, or those who are not physically robust. The specification carries the endorsement of all the interested parties and arrangements have been made for imported produce sacks to conform to the requirements of the specification.

Second-hand Sacks and Bags.—The standard specification for second-hand sacks and bags was revised during the year to provide for a further class of sacks and bags suitable for the packing of vegetables.

Cow-covers.—A standard specification for cow-covers has been completed and is being edited prior to being issued. In view of the wide variation in climatic conditions prevailing in New Zealand, this specification provides for eight different types of covers, five of which are made from ordinary jute canvas, and three from green wax-proofed jute canvas. Provision is also made for a range of sizes from 3 ft. 6 in. centre back length, rising by 2 in. or 3 in. gradations to 5 ft. 6 in. centre back length. In addition, the minimum weight of each type of material is specified, together with the necessary requirements in respect of stitching, strength of thread, and attachment of straps. The requirements are based upon the results of actual field tests and laboratory tests carried out on subsequent samples of covers made with different materials, and using different methods of attaching straps and buckles. As a result of these tests the committee was able to establish requirements which will ensure that cow-covers conforming to the specification will be properly made from adequate materials and will give satisfactory service. It is intended to supplement these provisions with requirements in respect of rot-proofing of the material as soon as investigations into this aspect have been completed. The use of the Standard Mark on cow-covers conforming to the standard specification will provide farmers with a means of ensuring that they receive full value and the best service in connection with this important item of their expenditure.

Hides Sectional Committee

(One meeting)

Hides, Yearlings, and Calf-skins.—A meeting of the Hides Sectional Committee was called during the year to consider proposals for amendment of the standard grades for hides, yearlings, and calf-skins to provide for the adoption of the same basis for the grading of skins received from all sources, freezing-works, abattoirs, and country butchers. After a full examination of this position the committee decided that the proposed revision should be deferred in view of the fact that any variation of the provisions of the standard specification at this stage would involve far-reaching changes in the price structure, since the marketing of hides is based upon the standard grades.

Farm Implements Sectional Committee

Tillage Machinery Parts Committee	One meeting.
Harvesting Machinery Committee	One meeting.
Garden Tools Committee	One meeting.

Tillage Machinery Parts.—The Tillage Machinery Parts Committee set up by the Farm Implements Sectional Committee during the previous year met to agree upon a programme of work for the standardization of tillage machinery parts. The committee endorsed this project and set up a panel to prepare a detailed list of the items which