Statistics of fertilizer and lime usage are not available for the early years of the period under review, but the figures shown in Table V illustrate the development in usage since 1926.

TABLE V—FERTILIZER AND AGRICULTURAL LIME PRODUCTION, 1926–27 TO 1948–49

Year.	Fertilizer Usage (Tons).	Lime Production (Tons).*	Year.	Fertilizer Usage (Tons).	Lime Production (Tons).*
1926–27 ..	291,991	..	1938–39 ..	614,388	391,069
1927–28 ..	391,746	182,949	1939–40 ..	672,611	593,995
1928–29 ..	465,184	221,756	1940–41 ..	698,647	728,474
1929–30 ..	525,905	204,811	1941–42 ..	502,431	613,168
1930–31 ..	402,640	171,159	1942–43 ..	362,331	752,603
1931–32 ..	359,812	201,735	1943–44 ..	285,415	903,808
1932–33 ..	403,332	191,888	1944–45 ..	429,681	812,635
1933–34 ..	376,175	261,940	1945–46 ..	514,084	929,794
1934–35 ..	373,428	288,559	1946–47 ..	633,471	1,020,810
1935–36 ..	426,400	317,055	1947–48 ..	689,267†	1,092,139
1936–37 ..	502,880	410,770	1948–49 ..	686,431†	..
1937–38 ..	611,316	481,712			

* Calendar years: Mines Department data. † Estimated.

The figures of fertilizer usage cover all types, but the great bulk is in the form of superphosphate and less-soluble phosphates. Shortages of raw materials are reflected in low usage in the war years, a factor which has probably had more effect on dairy production than is often appreciated. The endeavours of farmers to compensate for this lack of fertilizer by increased lime usage is clearly reflected in the figures of lime-production.

In 1929 the Department inaugurated a seed certification scheme for the purpose of ensuring adequate supplies of high-grade " pedigree " grass and clover seeds to farmers. The value of this service has been generally appreciated, and the use of certified seeds is now general in the resowing of pastures and in the establishment of new grass. Certification is also the basis of successful overseas trade in these commodities.

The rapid development of this service is illustrated by the following table of production of perennial rye-grass seed and the amounts certified :—

TABLE VI—TOTAL PRODUCTION OF PERENNIAL RYE-GRASS SEED AND QUANTITIES UNDER CERTIFICATION

Year.	Total Production (Tons).	Certified Seed (Tons).
1935	7,641	1,621
1940	5,982	2,255
1945	6,156	3,657
1947	13,693	9,373

LABOUR ON FARMS

Technical advances associated with the development of intensive pasture-management have enabled carrying-capacity, particularly of dairying and fat-lamb farms, to be substantially increased. How has this extra live-stock affected the farm labour force necessary to handle it ? Statistics of the number of people engaged in farming are far from being complete for the period under review. Such figures as are available indicate a declining number of farm workers since 1935–36. Part of this is due to the number on farms in the depression period being unduly inflated by lack of opportunity elsewhere, and part is due to increased mechanization, but these two factors do not entirely explain the large fall in numbers. It is extremely doubtful whether substantial increases in production