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GEO. M. FLETCHER,
Proprietor.

APOSTASY.

I've run about lately with folk intellec-
tual,
Minds that are flashing
And clashing
In strife,
Making me feel like a worm intellectual,
only much slower
And lower
In life;
In such a rarified air I've been terrified,
Left of opinion,
A minion
So small
That—it is risible—I am not visible
Under the eyebrows
Of highbrows
At all.

So I am homesick for lowbrows
Or nobrows,
Average people of standard design,
Down with supernal minds!
Mix me with vernal minds,
Ladies' Home-Journal minds,
Something like mine!

I am exhausted by flights conversational
Wearied by phrases
Like blazes
Of fire,
Take me away from these tests cerebra-
tional,

My brain is spinning,
Beginning,
To tire;
Perish such vertigo; back I prefer to go
with those who shine not
And pine not

A jot,
Dull, unsulphuric folk, non-analytic folk,
Minds of the kind that
I find that
I've got.

Yea, I am joyously spurning
All learning,
Gaily forsaking the heights I've been
shown.

Farewell to super-minds,
Come, let us group our minds,
We who are frankly bromidic in tone;
All us stagnating folk
Non-conversating folk
Talking of commonplace things we have
known.

Give me benighted minds,
Harold-Bell-Wright-ed minds,
Sluggish and static minds,
Calm and phlegmatic minds,
Unacrobatic minds—just like my own!

Berton Braley, in "American Life."

It is customary in Siberia for a girl
who has accepted the suitor she favours
to present him with a box of matches and
a pair of slippers, as a sign that he is to
be the master in the home.

Agriculture.

Pasture Notes.

(BY E. BRUCE LEVY.)

ASSISTANT BIOLOGIST, WERAROA
STATE FARM.

GRASSING OF FERN LANDS.

The above mixtures aim at permanent grasslands on this type of country. They are fairly expensive (at least £2 per acre), and will not produce a large bulk of feed soon after sowing, and when late autumn sown as little stocking as possible should be given in order that a good sward be produced so that heavy stocking can be carried out in October.

If it is not possible to put on the above mixtures in view of the high cost the following two alternatives are—

- (1) Reduce the area to be sown.
- (2) Use mainly Ryegrass in the first year's sowings and when this is thinning out surface sow seed of the other species mentioned in the mixtures to be sown:—
28lb Perennial Rye
6lb Crested Dogtail
2lb White Clover.

followed in subsequent years by surface sowing with Cocksfoot, Poa Pratensis, Danthonia, etc.

This method should be successful in a moist climate but in dry areas the surface sowing of seed later may not prove successful.

INDUCED FERN COUNTRY.

These areas are of recent origin and represent a type of succession to which all bush land in New Zealand is prone a few years after the forest has been cleared and burnt. In dealing with this type of country therefore the utmost endeavour should be made to so regulate the factors of seeding and subsequent farm management that the reversion to fern is prevented. Just so long as a sole of grass is maintained, so that the area is capable of carrying stock there is little danger of fern coming in, but so soon as bare ground appears or that the feed so diminishes that but few stock can be carried then fern will inevitably come in and it being of such an aggressive nature soon overshadows and crowds out what little grass has persisted, resulting in but a few years in a complete covering of fern.

Owing to the steepness of the country and logged state ploughing is impossible, and owing to the poor fern undergrowth the area will not carry a fire. Some years of fern must elapse before sufficient dead undergrowth of fern has accumulated in order that a satisfactory burn can be secured. The aim certainly should be to secure a good sole of grass from the forest fire for on induced fern country, even after a satisfactory burn, the young grass has a very serious competitor in the re-appearing fern more so than has that grass sown on the original forest burn.

Induced fern country must be looked upon, therefore, as difficult country to tackle without experience and a fair banking account. The disability of failure is fairly great and certainly this class of country should not be tackled by the small man without at least some level country that can be ploughed.

If the ploughable area is in the rough logged state the following approximate expenditure would be incurred in order to secure a crop:—

- Stamping and logging up, £15 per acre (fairly heavy bush).
- Seeding, £2 per acre.
- Ploughing and cultivating £1 10s per acre.

It is owing to the high cost of stamping that a great deal of our more level bush country has remained in fern and such vegetation until such time as the stumps have more or less rotted out.

The grass-seed mixtures recommended for natural fern land apply also to induced fern country, and must be varied according to nature of country to which applied.

The renovation by the surface sowing of seed of much of our country now in the stage of transition should be undertaken, the roughish patches of fern etc, being burnt previous to seeding. The species of grasses and clovers likely to be of most value for this surface sowing are: Crested Dogtail, Poa Pratensis, Danthonia, Chewings Fescue, Florin, White Clover, and Lotus Hispidus. If a good deal of burning is done then other grasses and clovers could be added and a mixture similar to that recommended for

fern burns could be used.

The mere surface sowing of grass and clover seed on to a more or less turf is really needful of much experimental work to determine what species actually are the most reliable to use and the time and quantities to sow. Those mentioned above have, however, been tried to some extent, and the times of sowing most likely to be attendant on success are early spring or after the first rains of autumn.

It is quite possible and probable that Crested Dogtail alone would prove quite a satisfactory grass to employ sowing down from 10-18lb per acre plus 2lb White Clover.

Whether the heavy cost of sowing truly permanent mixture on this class of country could be spread over a period of years requires experimental proof and depends on how successful surface sowing of grass and clover seed is when applied to the already existing turf.

There is little doubt but what Paspalum should be valuable in many fern infested areas. A sward of Danthonia and Paspalum, even if the fern did get away, would ensure that the area could readily be fired without injury to either of these grasses. However, where winter feed is the necessity, Paspalum will be of little value, as this grass is essentially a summer one.

The value of Danthonia is not fully appreciated by many of our second and third-class bush burn country farmers. It is considered not good enough for the land of any one particular farmer. The endeavour is made to grass with grasses land that is just a little too poor for those grasses satisfactorily to establish and hold.

If one takes, for instance, a typical mixture used on this hill-side country:—

- 6lb Perennial Rye
- 3lb Italian Rye
- 6lb Cocksfoot
- 1lb Crested Dogtail
- 1lb Poa Pratensis
- 1lb Chewings Fescue
- 2lb Danthonia Pilosa
- 1lb Waipu Brown Top or Fiosin
- 2lb White Clover
- 2lb Cowgrass.

It will be seen that the permanent elements amount to 13½lb per acre, which amount is expected when sown on steep hillsides, where the loss is considerable by wasting away, etc., to give a satisfactory soil. Again the binding element as represented by Poa Pratensis and Chewings Fescue (1½lb per acre) is quite useless, which means that even the Cocksfoot cannot rightly be looked upon as a permanent constituent.

MARAUDING DOGS.

A REMARKABLE AUSTRALIAN MENACE.

Mr A. S. Kidman told the New South Wales Minister of Lands in Sydney that wild dogs had pulled down 50,000 sheep in the properties he controls in New South Wales. He stated that the management had been paying £5 for every dog destroyed, but there was no appreciable check in the numbers of the killers. This statement was made when a deputation waited on the Minister to urge that the Government should assist in adopting measures to check the depredations of the dogs which would be in keeping with the magnitude of the disaster which threatens sheep-owners in parts of the western division. An enormous extent of country was represented by the deputation, and the representatives were all thoroughly conversant with the conditions in the back country. Mr G. Jeffrey, the principal speaker, said that unless the dogs could be checked the West Darling would have to go out of sheep. It is frequently said that the holders of the country would have to give up sheep and go in for cattle, but the greater extent of the country is, as is well known, unsuitable for large stock. Other speakers said that dogs had come in as far as Hillston, and there was no limit to the country that was threatened. The Government was asked by the deputation to erect about 150 miles of dog proof fence, and to repair about 180 miles of existing fence, and make this dog proof. The buffer fence would extend from the Darling above Wilcannia to the Queensland border. The estimated cost of the fence is £50,000, payments to be made in the course of three years. The Minister was asked to find this money, and was informed that the lessees concerned had

spent £20,000 on 200 miles of dog-proof fencing, which was now costing them £1000 a year for maintenance. It was estimated that despite this the country had lost £1,300,000 a year in sheep and wool. The Minister proved very sympathetic; in fact he stated that the Government was prepared to go on with the fence immediately.

PROFITEERING IN LAND.

HOW THE SOLDIERS ARE BLEED.

EXTORTIONATE PRICES ASKED FOR PROPERTIES.

It is but a short cry to the time when recruiting meetings were being held in different parts of Dunedin and in every centre in Otago, and it is not difficult to remember how stalwart young men, fired with patriotism, in response to appeals made to them to rally round the "good old flag" and help to turn back the on-rushing Hun, donned the King's uniform and nobly helped to defeat the enemy of civilisation, believing that the promises made to them—that they would be protected and cared for upon their return—would be carried out. It is true that a great many of the promises made to our soldiers have been kept and doubtless will continue to be kept. There are many men to-day who had had opened up for them a life entirely different from that to which they left to go to the front, and, judging from information gleaned by a "Daily Times" reporter last week, others are embarking upon ventures which are doomed to failure at the outset. This applies more particularly to the purchase of property. Instances of the high prices which are being extorted from returned soldiers desirous of settling on the land came before the Otago Land Board at a recent meeting, and which leaves little room for doubt that profiteering in land is being carried on to an abnormal degree. What would appear to be a particularly bad case is that concerning a small farm situated north of Dunedin, which was sold to a returned soldier for £630. Two valuations of the property were made subsequently by Government officials, and each of these disclosed the fact that the value of the farm was considerably below £200. The soldier occupant applied for an advance on his stock, but in the circumstances this was refused by the board. Another case is connected with the sale of a residence for which the owner paid £625, but which he had tried to sell to a returned soldier for £880, but subsequently he reduced his price to £845. This latter price, according to the reports of the valuers, was absolutely excessive, and an application by the soldier to the Land Board for an advance of money against this property was declined. This soldier is a man who suffered severely during the war, and is permanently disabled. In the South Otago district there has been discovered the sale of a farm to a soldier for a sum between £3000 and £4000. The soldier applied for an advance of £2500, and the proposition on paper looked all right, but the Government valuers assessed the value of the property at £1977, and, therefore, the application for the advance was declined by the board.

KIA ORA.

One incident interesting to New Zealanders occurred on one of the Prince's days in New York. Lieutenant J. Ross Duggan, of the New Zealand Field Artillery, was in the line forming part of the guard of honour of British war veterans, when the Prince paid his visit to the Columbia Yacht Club. As the Prince passed down the line of the guard of honour he shook hands with each member of the guard in turn. When he reached Lieutenant Duggan he was greeted with the "high sign" of the Anzacs, "Kia Ora." Like a flash the Prince halted. He had never been to New Zealand, but he recognised the signal immediately, and although the New Zealand uniform did not differ materially from the uniform of the other British officers in line, the Prince was quick to detect the metal badge on Lieutenant Duggan's lapel.

"New Zealand Field Artillery," said the Prince. "I was with you at Colonne."

Lieutenant Duggan asked the Prince when he was going to New Zealand to which the Prince replied: "Just as soon as I can; when are you going back?"

A singular feature to be seen in Japan on New Year's Day is a grass rope running from house to house, with symbolical decorations. It is believed to ward off evil spirits during the year.

The oldest and most frequently-tapped rubber trees produce the richest sap, and some trees which are tapped every other day will yield sap for more than a score of years.

Economic Egg Crates.

LINDSAY AND CO., Tay street, Invercargill, have been appointed Southland Agents for this well known Crate.

The Economic Egg Carrier has now been on the market for twelve years, and Crates made as far back as 1908 are still giving good service.

Supplied in the following sizes—
No. 1—Holds 20 Dozen.
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Also Separate Trays to fit petrol cases—4 dozen.

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- 5 ACRES, Waikiki with good 8-roomed house; ideal situation. The price is right.
- 10 ACRES with brick dwelling close to town. This is a good place. Price £1750.
- 13½ ACRES, Edendale, with good dwelling; handy situation. Price £1500. Terms easy.
- 16 ACRES, Lorne; good six-roomed house, etc.; all been cultivated. Price £1500.
- 30 ACRES, Kennington. All in young grass; six-roomed house, etc. Price £1600.
- 30 ACRES, Gore; all in grass; six-roomed house, etc. Price £1200.
- 62 ACRES, Mataura; all in grass; good seven-roomed house; ¼ mile from township. Price £40 per acre.
- 73 ACRES, Makarewa; three-roomed house and hut; part ploughed. The lot for £900.
- 132 ACRES, Makarewa; no buildings; part cleared, part sown and part in stumps. Price £20 per acre.

T. D. A. MOFFETT

Land and Estate Agent,

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SOME GOOD LAW STORIES.

Judge Parry has many amusing stories to tell of the various people who have been brought before him. Some time ago he was hearing a case in which a poor woman was concerned, and he announced that the trial would have to be adjourned.

"What does that mean?" asked the woman.

"Put off," replied the judge.

"Oh, when till?"

"Till next Monday."

"Oh, I can't come on Monday," exclaimed the woman indignantly. "Monday's my washing day. But I tell you what: you'd better come and see me, your Honour. That'll be much better than troubling me to come to this ere court."

Lord Morris was conducting a trial in which a gentleman sought damages from a veterinary surgeon for having poisoned a valuable horse. The issue depended upon the question of how many grains of a certain drug could be safely administered. The dispensary doctor proved that he had given eight grains to a man, from which it was to be inferred that twelve for a horse was not excessive. "Doctor, dear," said the Judge, "niver moind yer eight grains in this matter of twelve, because we all know that some poisons are accumulative in effect, an' ye may go the edge of ruin, with impunity. But tell me this: the twelve grains—the twelve, moind ye—wouldn't they kill the devil himself if he swallowed them?" "I don't know, my Lord," said the doctor, pompously drawing himself up; "I never prescribed for that patient." "Ah, no, doctor dear, ye niver did, more's the pity. The ould bhoy's alive still!"

One of Mr Pett Ridge's stories concerns a London police court.

One morning the magistrate recognised one of the visitors to the court as an old clerkman, and invited him to take a seat on the bench.

The newcomer accepted, and whispered to the magistrate that this was his first visit to a police court, adding, as he looked round the apartment, "But I notice you have a remarkably tough lot of customers to deal with this morning."

"Hush!" replied the magistrate in an agonised whisper, "those are the soldiers!"