

THE PRESENT POSITION OF ORGANISATION IN THE SEED TRADE.

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Perhaps one of the most important of recent developments in pasture improvement has been the realisation by scientific and educational workers of the economic value of regional strains. Our own research workers and those engaged in extension work are fully alive to the position and realise also that certain New Zealand regional strains are a potential source of wealth to this country and are taking steps to exploit these strains to 'extract and from them the greatest measure of benefit. The more progressive growers and merchants have for some time realised the value of these strains and have reaped accordingly a measure of individual profit, but, until the last three or four years, there has not been any collective or well directed attempt to explore the full national possibilities offered by these strains, or to place them on the pedestal which we feel is their rightful place.

If we are to believe the complimentary references made over seas, we must regard this country as one of the most favoured as an Empire centre for the production of herbage seeds. In addition we have ample evidence from abroad that they regard our regional strains as of considerable economic value. Hawke's Bay and Poverty Bay ryegrass, New Zealand white clover, Akarua cocksfoot, New Zealand brown top and Chewings fescue, are all strains of New Zealand origin recognised abroad and each having its own sphere of economic adaptation. Therefore, although we may not agree amongst ourselves in detail upon the exact economic utilisation of these strains, I think we are unanimous in regarding them as a great asset to New Zealand, and one from which we should extract the uttermost value.

Appreciating these facts we, in the Department, have felt that the full realisation of the benefits we should reasonably

