

WHAT AMATEURS CAN DO WHEN THEY TRY

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are some jobs that they can't do at all, and some that it is not worth giving them to do because of the amount of supervision required—pea-picking, for example—their assistance means a good deal in the aggregate.

Mechanisation

Apart from them, the present working staff on this farm is 20 Europeans—17 men, two women and one boy. But the amount of hand-work done is reduced to a minimum. It is a mechanised farm; and while it is necessary to plant out by hand, cultivation before

the supply. After all, it is war production—as definitely as the manufacture of clothing and munitions. And the only certainty in war is uncertainty. If 10,000 men require 100,000 cabbages, say, but for military reasons are moved away before the cabbages arrive, there is disorganisation, and there may be waste. There has been some waste at Greytown; but it has been on such a small scale, such an insignificant scale in relation to the operations as a whole, that it probably gives a false impression even to mention it. Nor is it necessary to point out to anyone who has ever grown vegetables on any scale at all that the weather can play tricks which cannot be guarded against. If, for example, an acre of tomatoes are just beginning to ripen, and an estimate of quantities available is given for two or three weeks ahead, a succession of dry, hot days will throw the whole estimate out of gear one way, and a cold snap upset it another way. And what applies to tomatoes applies to peas, beans, pumpkins, and many other crops—but particularly to a crop of broccoli. Production must always be by guess and by God to some extent in a country in which the weather is unpredictable.

All Amateurs

It is, perhaps, one of the most interesting features of this whole experiment that it has been carried to success by amateurs. From the supervisor down, the only experience most of the staff could claim when they started was kitchen-garden experience—growing enough vegetables for one household. So New Zealanders are either very adaptable or they learn far more than they realise when they think they are only amusing themselves.



Picking peas at Greytown

sowing and planting, and even harvesting in some cases—taking up root crops, for example—is by power-driven or power-pulled machines. One interesting development this season has been the extension of the nursery. Instead of buying plants, the farm grows them from seed, and it will give some idea of the extent of this work to point out that the requirements this year are 500,000 plants. The staff have, in fact, become such enthusiastic nurserymen that they have of their own initiative, provided shelter and wind-breaks for the nursery, shelves for the seed-boxes and a loading platform for the lorries.

Man Proposes

With operations on such an extensive scale, it has not always been possible to avoid miscalculations. In a few cases, not very many, crops have been produced in excess of the demand. In some cases, the demand has been greater than



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