

## THE BORDER COLLIE

[F it wasn't for the time—and money— saved by the sheepdog wool would be much dearer than it is today, and many of us wouldn't be able to afford clothes at all, says Sydney Moorhouse in a talk on the sheepdog to be heard in the 2YA Farm Session on Friday, May 31, and later from other stations. The sheep dog today is, of course, mainly the Border Collie, who is found in almost all the big sheep-rearing countries of the Commonwealth, as well as beyond; and New Zealand listeners will be particularly interested in the account Mr Moorhouse gives of the way in which some of the Border Collie pedigree lines spread to this country. The talk will be useful and interesting also as an introduction to the National Sheep Dog Trial Championships to be held next month.

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Since the Blue Mountains are now a State forest, they probably give pigs more cover than they had a hundred years ago, and since State forests are usually forbidden territory to men with rifles, dogs and guns, pigs have probably been increasing in number for years, and have now burst out of their forest retreat for better rooting, scavenging and grazing. They have also, perhaps, been chased out by forestry deer cullers.

Whatever the explanation is, the situation, if it has been accurately reported, shows what happens in settled country if settlement relaxes its pressure and turns its back. If war or pestilence or any other convulsion short of atomic destruction depopulated New Zealand, the bush would be back in 50 years, and most of the birds with it. It would not be the New Zealand the whalers found, since many creatures have come with the white man which would survive and fight one another for a place. But it would be a wild country in which horses, cattle, sheep and goats would jostle one another for the grass the rabbits had not eaten and pigs and dogs would fight for the available flesh: their own when rabbits and sheep were scarce. It will not happen in West Otago if I still know the people there. But until yesterday I thought I knew their country, and it is clear that I don't know it any longer.

(To be continued)

### For Farmers

THE beef industry and aerial farming in the South Island will be the main topics for discussion at the Lincoln College Farmers' Conference next week. A series of addresses on these subjects will follow the official opening, at which Sir E. Bruce Levy will speak on the future of grassland farming in New Zealand. Reports from the conference will be broadcast from South Island YA and YZ stations at 6.50 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22; 6.52 p.m. on Thursday, May 23; and 6.49 p.m. on Friday, May 24.

At the same time the Massey College Dairy Association Conference will be held. The opening address by L. D. Hickford, Chairman of the National Dairy Association, will be on the privileges and responsibilities of the dairy farmer, North Island YA and YZ stations will broadcast reports at 6.50 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, and 6.52 on Thursday, May 23.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 17, 1957.



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