



ARE we New Zealanders too smug about our achievements as farmers? Can we afford to be smug at all? Are we really making the best use of our land? What could, and should, we do to increase production? With one eye on this year's General Election and the need to think intelligently about land policy, and the other on the problem of feeding another 1,000,000 New Zealanders by 1975, a new series of popular, down-to-earth talks with the general title, *Wanted—A Land Policy*, will discuss these and other related questions during the next few months.

In every branch of our national life we can generally learn something about our present problems by taking a critical look at their past—land policy is certainly no exception. How many of us, for example, know how our present system of land tenure developed? And are we satisfied even now that it has reached a satisfactory finality? Or, again, there's the problem of our farming cost structure. We haven't yet found how to reduce it to manageable proportions, but since it has proved so great a barrier perhaps we should try again. These are only two of the problems W. J. Gardner examines in the first talk of the series, a critical history of farming in New Zealand. Among the more lively



current issues he discusses is our heavy reliance on the British market. Mr Gardner is Lecturer in History at Canterbury University College.

There is no reason, if you look at the advantages we enjoy, why we should not be a nation of good farmers, and Professor L. W. McCaskill, of Lincoln College, puts a pin into the bubbles of



our complacency when right at the start of his talk on the use we make of the land he declares that we are not doing nearly well enough. The task ahead as he sees it is not only to feed another 1,000,000 people by 1975, but to give them a standard of living equal to the one we enjoy today. To do that we must increase our beef and dairy cattle by



★ SPEAKERS IN THE SERIES: Left to right, Nancy Northcroft, L. W. McCaskill, and W. J. Gardner ★

hundreds of thousands each, and our sheep population by many millions. More important, we'll need something like 27,000 more workers on the land to look after all those extra animals. The extra stock can be carried only if

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