

we increase the carrying capacity of land already occupied or bring new land into production. "The sensible thing," says Professor McCaskill, "is to do both."

And what about manpower? An increase of 23 per cent in farm production between 1939 and 1950 while 9000 farm workers of one kind and another were going off the land is partly explained by mechanisation—for one thing, 25,000 more tractors. But isn't it possible that we might have done a bit better to spend a little less on mechanisation and a little more on extra labour—on huts for single men and houses for married? Professor McCaskill, at any rate, thinks we would be better off socially and economically if we did have more workers on the land, and he devotes a separate talk to the manpower question. One blunt question he asks is: Why don't farmers do more to train workers for the land since they are so willing to use those that others train for them—at the Department of Agriculture training school at Flock House, for instance? And when farmers get good workers, do they do enough to keep them?

New Zealand's extra 1,000,000 people in 1975 will not only need more land and people growing more food. According to town planning experts our towns will occupy 90,000 acres more than they do now if we insist on living eight people to the acre as at present, and it's likely that much of that new urban land will be good land—because good farm land is usually good building land. In a talk on this aspect of land policy, Nancy Northcroft, Regional Planning Officer, Christchurch, argues that a change in the design of our towns will mean not only a saving in land of up to 80,000 acres, but a big saving in the cost of services—and therefore in rates.

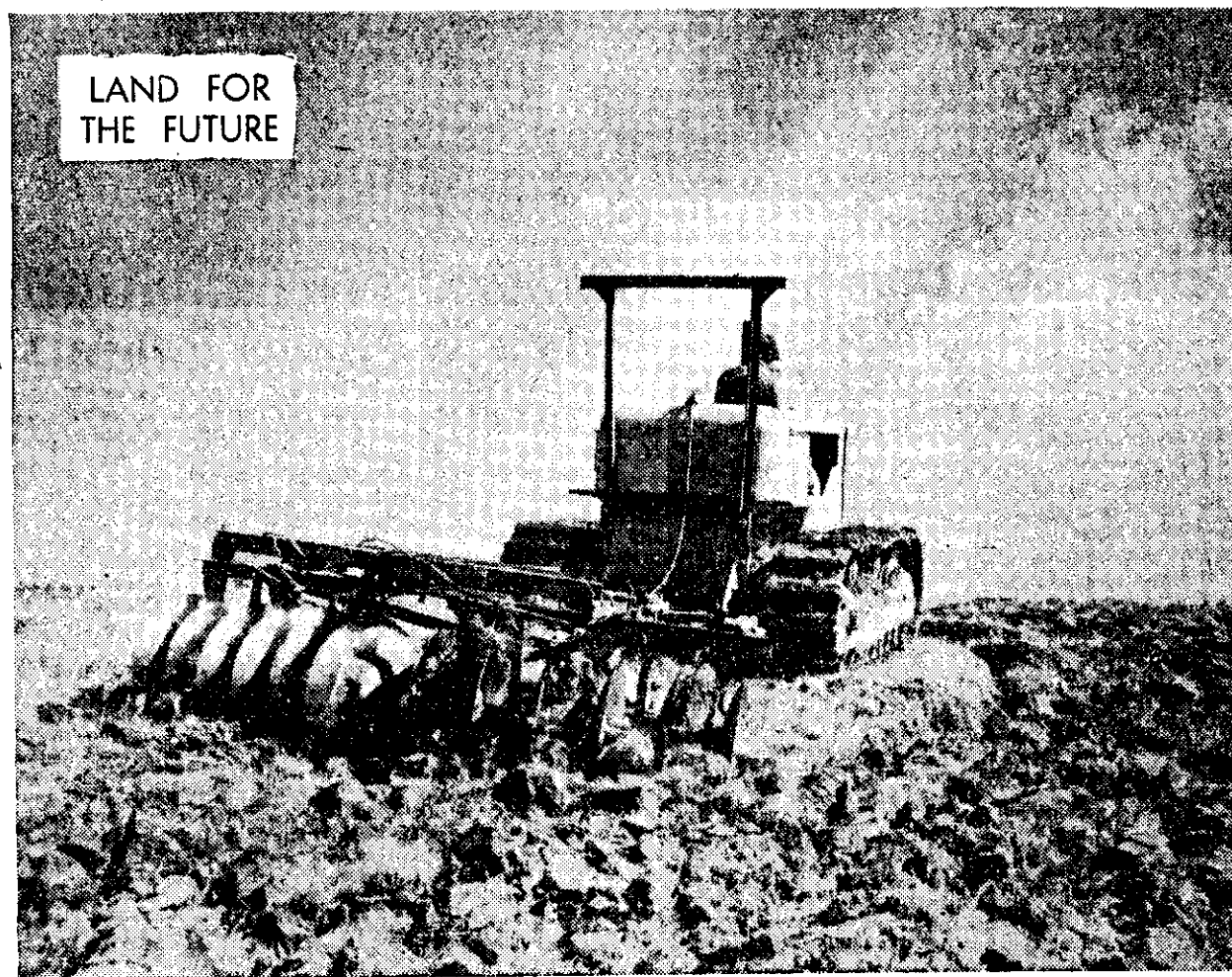
Ownership of land involves responsibilities to society as a whole, says Professor McCaskill in a final talk which looks to the future. The main responsibility is that each acre should be farmed to produce as much as it can so long as the soil is conserved. But if all the existing farmers worked their existing farms as well as they are able they would still not solve the production problem New Zealand will face in the next 20 years. What then must be done? Should existing farms be cut up if it could be shown it would be economic? Should there be intensified land development to bring new land into production? Drawing on such examples as irrigation in Canterbury on the one hand and the development of new farmlands near Lake Te Anau on the other, Professor McCaskill proceeds to examine these two possibilities. One strong plea is for young men on the land. We must be fair to the ageing farmer after his years of exertion, he says, but if we could replace him by a young, keen, efficient man we would certainly increase production.

**Wanted—A Land Policy** will start from 4YA and 4YZ at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday, August 7, and from 2YA at 7.13 p.m. on Thursday, August 8. Later it will be heard from other YA stations.

N.Z. LISTENER, AUGUST 2, 1957.



LAND AND  
MANPOWER



LAND FOR  
THE FUTURE