

windows, burn out stoves and jugs, overfill drawers, burst travelling bags, break the backs of books . . ."

"And drop watches; precious watches; watches that cost a pound 40 years ago, and have been useless survivals since radio began giving us the true time every few minutes. The trouble with men, if I must tell you, is that they worship junk, cling like kids to their toys, and never grow up."

MY sermon on my well was misunderstood. I thought I had made it plain that it was Jeremiah talking, not a costs clerk; that I was not attacking individuals; that the other fellow was everybody between the hole in the hill where the pump metal came from and the hole in my paddock where the water

comes from; everybody who has lived and worked through the last 25 years. Apparently I did not make it plain enough.

But it occurs to me, now that I am back at the well, that I should convert the general into the particular. So far as I am concerned the job is done and paid for and will soon be forgotten. It may, however, interest the grandchildren of some of my readers, or their great-grandchildren, to know precisely what an undertaking of this kind cost

in the good old days of 1953. Here are the figures:—

	£	s.	d.
Sinking the well—i.e. driving a 2-inch pipe 76 feet into soft ground	44	18	0
Clearing the pipe and attaching it to the pump above ground	13	5	0
Supplying 30 feet of 1-inch pipe and 25 feet of 3/4-inch, with a tap, a joint, and 10 feet of 1/2-inch steel rod	11	11	5
Wiring the pump motor to switch-board in house 75 yards away (Note: Poles and cross-bars not included)	19	4	2
Pump (capacity 120 gallons p.h., lift 50 feet)	44	10	0
Motor (1/3 h.p.)	10	12	6
Deep well fitting	4	10	0
Box for pump (3ft. x 3ft. x 3ft.)	7	0	0
Total	£155	11	1

[T] is pleasant to have it on the authority of the Minister of Agriculture that cows this year will bring New Zealand a hundred million pounds; not so pleasant to be reminded that we are killing too many calves. I suspect, too, that what we are doing is killing good calves—calves whose mothers and grandmothers

were better than anything their owners had bred before them. To the extent to which that is true we are watering the milk—increasing the ratio of second-, third- and fourth-rate

producers. And unfortunately no one knows, or can know, how true it is.

Farmers don't often in New Zealand underestimate their carrying capacity. For every cow that gets more than she can eat there must be ten that get less for at least a third of the year; if hipbones are evidence. Keeping more calves means therefore producing or buying more feed, and it is not easy, and often quite impossible, to take one step or the other at short notice. It interests me to see my neighbours turning to silage to increase their carrying capacity. If they don't turn too violently—concentrate on silage and forget their hay—they must achieve something. But silage will not make two blades grow where the crop is at present one blade. It may, however, save three blades where only two are saved in hay.

In the meantime one good neighbour has warned me that if ensilage pits became a feature of this valley ensilage odour will become a feature, too, and will not add to the joys of living here. It is a risk I am prepared to take in the common cause, and I don't underestimate it. But the day is coming, I am sure, when ensilage will be no more offensive to our noses than common soap now is, even when it is home-made.

(To be continued)



FORMERLY Supervisor of Programme Organisation for the Commercial Division, L. R. Sceats (above) has been appointed NZBS District Manager at Dunedin. Mr. Sceats started his broadcasting career as an announcer at 4YA, Dunedin, in 1935. He has been manager of 2ZB, Wellington, and 2ZA, Palmerston North. A Bachelor of Arts and holder of the Diploma in Public Administration, Mr. Sceats last year won a Smith-Mundt grant to study broadcasting for four months in the United States.

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