



Price Slump

The Call for Economy

THE call of the Prime Minister for economy will be echoed in the minds of many farmers who have seriously suffered from the slump in prices. True, the latest news from overseas is more hopeful, both regarding wool and butter prices, but the fact remains that there is much leeway to be overtaken.

Spending there must be to keep the wheels going round, but let it be wise. The recent Golden Fleece Exhibition in Wellington, referred to in another column, has proved how desirable and adaptable woollen materials are now. They are free from all the stuffiness and lack of charm with which woollen garments were formerly associated.

It is stated that whereas the material for a woman's dress previously called for the wool of two sheep, it is now provided by two silkworms. It is for women to decide, therefore, whether they will support the sheep-farmers of this country in their time of need or the silk-worm industry of another country, not even within the Empire.

It may be argued that not all silk used is pure, but, even so, it is wool that we should endeavour to use in preference. We know that the appeal of silk hosiery will die hard in the hearts of many women. Stockings manufactured from both wool and silk are now so inviting in appearance and so much more suitable for outdoor wear in this season that it should be no hardship to choose them. As a matter of fact, few of the better-dressed women in either London or Paris wear anything else in autumn and winter for street and sports wear. Our plea is to New Zealand women to think twice before spending on other than New Zealand, or at least Empire, products.

Set a Thief—

THE use of fever in treating certain diseases, notably paresis, or slight or partial paralysis, is based on the theory that fever is one of the major defensive measures of the body against invading organisms. Malaria has been used to produce fever, but recently doctors have raised temperatures by using an electric current from a diathermy machine. The latter method is said to be advantageous inasmuch as both the degree and duration of the fever can be controlled.

Someone Stems the New Sun-bath Lamp Tide

Electricity in Schools

THE tide of progress appears to have left the Education Department unaffected. They have considered it unnecessary to install an electric stove for the instruction of the girls attending the Wellington Technical College.

In replying to an application for funds to install electric cookers the Department refused on the ground that there were many free demonstrations in the city from which tuition might be obtained. They admitted that electric stoves were widely used, and that cookery demonstration rooms should be equipped with them.

It seems that the Department is begging the question. For one thing, schoolgirls are seldom free at the time demonstrations are held, and they do not allow for the practice that makes perfect.

The chairman of the Board of Governors commented on the anomaly of having one Government Department doing all it can to encourage the use of electricity, with another Department refusing to grant facilities to enable the girls to learn how to cook electrically.

It was, however, unanimously decided by the governors, on the motion of Mr. G. Mitchell, to purchase the electric range for the college, the chairman pointing out that a good one could be obtained for a matter of £30. All honour to Mr. Mitchell and his fellow-governors.

Speeding Up Nature

AT the Canadian Government experimental farms, batteries of electric lights are being used in greenhouses in the evenings to mature two crops of wheat in the same year, and so save time in the development of promising new varieties. Time is of importance, because usually it takes eight years to produce enough seed of a new sort to test it for yield in field trials.

By maturing a second crop in greenhouses during the winter, the period until field testing is thus halved. The batteries are of 300-watt lamps, and without them the indoor crop would be lacking in vigour, and would not mature in time to effect any saving. Several hardy varieties have been developed at the Government farms.

Harmless to Eyes

APPREHENSION has hitherto been felt in some quarters as to possibly injurious effects of ultra-violet rays upon the eyesight. They are, of course, perfectly safe if goggles are worn, or the eyes of the patient bandaged. A new mercury health lamp is,

A Brother-by

(A small boy's version of the Lullaby published in "The Radio Record," for May 23.)

Sleep, yer biddy kid,
Fatty is bawling
Teasingly, jeeringly,
Down by the gate.

Sleep, yer blinkin' kid,
Chuck caterwauling
Slippily, nippily,
Or I'll be late.

Sleep, be sportin' kid,
Fishes are jumping
Friskily, skittishly,
Hi! Where's me bait?

Sleep, yer snitcher kid,
Dinkum! She's snoring
Purringly, gurglingly,
Geel! Ain't that GREAT?

—V. May Cottrell.

Ensuring Safety and Value

What Electricity Provides

ELECTRIC service has become such a commonplace in the lives of most of us that we now push a switch and expect our lights to burn or other devices to operate with the same confidence that we turn a tap and expect water to flow. Nor are we disappointed. Effectiveness and safety are ensured.

Quietly probably, safety has been the first consideration. Consequently the purchaser of any apparatus is able to take for granted that what he buys can be used without risk of any sort. Effectiveness, however, has not been sacrificed, and equally it can be appreciated that electrical equipment will carry out the functions for which it is intended. On the part of the uninitiated, there need be no fear of buying a pig in a poke, for all appliances are tested and retested before leaving the makers, and capacity is clearly indicated on the goods themselves.

Washing-day Becomes a Holiday

WHAT may be termed a novel and most interesting method of controlling present-day machinery was on view at the Laundry Exhibition recently held at the Agricultural Hall, London.

A washing machine was exhibited, controlled by speech. This immense machine consists of a polished steel drum, 12ft. in length and about 8ft. in diameter, and is capable of washing about 1000lb. of clothes in an hour, a task that would occupy about 200 washerwomen for the same period of time. At the word of command, "Start," spoken into a microphone fixed at the end of the machine, this immense monster becomes charged with life, the steel cylinder revolving without human interference. At the command "Stop" the machine comes to a standstill.

Needless to say, this type of control was only installed as an experiment. The next development will probably be the production of a gramophone record to give the necessary orders.

however, now available, for which not even these precautions are needed.

The heart of the lamp is a bulb containing both a filament and mercury-arc generator. When current is passed through it, the filament becomes heated, and in turn heats a pool of mercury in the bowl of the bulb. The mercury vapour rises, and creates an arc across a tungsten lamp, whose electrodes project from the filament supports. The lamp is burned with the base up, and requires a current regulator, consumption differing when arc and filament burn separately and together. When used with the proper reflector, the lamp produces light containing both infrared and ultra-violet rays.

The extremely short ultra-violet rays likely to affect the eyes are screened out by the bulb material, so that no eye protection is needed, in spite of the fact that the lamp provides brilliant illumination.