PROCEEDINGS OF:

FIRST NATIONAL WEEDS CONFERENCE

held at

L I N C O L N A G R I C U L T U R A L C O L L E G E

AUGUST 10TH & 11TH, 1948

INTRODUCTION BY MR. J. W. CALDER, ACTING DIRECTOR, LINCOLN COLLEGE:

MR. J. W. CALDER: Some two months ago a group of people interested in weeds and weed control took the opportunity of meeting Dr. Pridham, an American weed control specialist visiting New Zealand, and after two very interesting days with him, they felt that the time was opportune to consider holding a National Conference on weeds and weed control. That group of people asked the College and the Agronomy Division whether they would consider calling a National Conference and the representatives at that meeting came here and considered the matter and decided that they would set up an organizing committee for the purpose of setting in train such a conference. Mr. Bevin has been secretary of that and I have been chairman; as a result, this meeting is operating to-day. Our first job is to appoint a chairman of this conference, and as chairman of that organizing committee I have very much pleasure in nominating Mr. William Machin, chairman of the School of Agriculture.

MR. MacDONALD: I have much pleasure in seconding that.

MR. CALDER: I will declare Mr. Machin elected as chairman of the Weeds Conference and ask him to take the Chair.

MR. W. MACHIN: It is not my job to be loquacious, but to keep the Conference within bounds, and in looking at this large audience and describing it in my own mind as a very influential one, I realize that it will be some little job to keep the discussion within bounds to enable you to get away by to-morrow night.

But let me first say that there is no one more entitled to give a welcome than the chairman of the Canterbury Agricultural College Board, Mr. H. S. S. Kyle. He is well-known throughout the whole length of New Zealand and to everyone here, and I will now ask Mr. Kyle to give you that welcome.

MR. H. S. S. KYLE: On behalf of the Board of Governors of Lincoln Agricultural College I want to extend to all present here to-day a very very hearty welcome to the College. You have banded yourselves together in order to discuss this very serious question of weed control and weed control experiments. I have just had the privilege of looking through the various organizations represented here to-day and it seems to me to be just about complete as possible. The originators of the scheme have called together practically all the scientific research and agricultural departments and I notice even the Railway Department and I am very very pleased to see them represented because one has to travel only up and down this island to see the acres of gorse on the railway. We have had in the past, grassland conferences and wheat growers' conferences and it is very nice to know that you are now looking into that serious trouble - weed control. No doubt weeds are some of the greatest menaces to the farming lands of this country. In the grassland of the North Island they have certain weeds to control, but in Canterbury the agricultural land is becoming infested with weeds such as Californian Thistle. Anything that you can evolve from this conference will be most valuable to the farming and pastoral communities of this country. The Board has been setting out to control the Nassella Tussock and I would say that that and the Californian Thistle are two of our most troublesome weeds. We realize now the necessity of having all imported seeds examined and fumigated. Unfortunately, in the years gone by such control was not in operation and no doubt that has been the cause of many weeds coming into New Zealand. But now, even when importing animals - you are not allowed to bring any of the fodder out of the hold of the boat, and you have to purchase hay in Wellington to come to Lyttelton. I want to give you a very very hearty welcome to the College and I hope that something good will come out of this. I understand that it is the first conference called in Australasia and I think everyone present here to-day is to be congratulated for the interest they are showing in the work of the conference you are attending. I wish to give you a very very hearty welcome.