

"The prices were unaltered during May, 1942, but for June the prices were increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound. There was no alteration for July, 1942. On the 1st of August, 1942, the contract for shipments of hides to Australia was renewed. The new contract included, in addition to the present grades for shipment to Australia, cow-hides 40/50 lb. and 40/47 lb. ox-hides.

"The prices for August, 1942, were $\frac{3}{16}$ d. per pound lower, and the new schedule included the additional grades mentioned above.

	Freezers.	Abattoirs.	Country Butchers.	First Country.	Second Country.	Third Country.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Ox-hides 40/47 lb.	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{8}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ox: 48 lb. up—						
Average weight 52 to 54 lb. ..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	10	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
Average weight over 54 to 56 lb. ..	10 $\frac{9}{16}$	10 $\frac{1}{16}$	9 $\frac{9}{16}$	9 $\frac{1}{16}$	8 $\frac{9}{16}$	8 $\frac{1}{16}$
Average weight over 56 to 58 lb. ..	10 $\frac{5}{8}$	10 $\frac{3}{8}$	9 $\frac{5}{8}$	9 $\frac{1}{8}$	8 $\frac{5}{8}$	8 $\frac{1}{8}$
Average weight over 58 to 59 lb. ..	10 $\frac{11}{16}$	10 $\frac{3}{16}$	9 $\frac{11}{16}$	9 $\frac{3}{16}$	8 $\frac{11}{16}$	8 $\frac{3}{16}$
Average weight over 59 to 61 lb. ..	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average weight 61 lb. up ..	10 $\frac{13}{16}$	10 $\frac{5}{16}$	9 $\frac{13}{16}$	9 $\frac{5}{16}$	8 $\frac{13}{16}$	8 $\frac{5}{16}$
Cow-hides: 51 lb. up	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cow-hides 40 to 50 lb.	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{3}{4}$

"September, 1942, prices remained unchanged, and October, 1942, prices were increased by $\frac{3}{16}$ d. per pound. The prices remained unchanged for the months of November, 1942, to March, 1943, inclusive.

"*Market Prices.*—Early in 1942 ceiling prices were fixed in the United Kingdom, the United States, and Canada. From April to June, 1942, the prices for freezer cow-hides for shipment to United Kingdom were 8 $\frac{7}{8}$ d. per pound c. and f., and from July onwards were 8 $\frac{15}{16}$ d. c. and f. The ceiling prices for the United States and Canada are equivalent to the United Kingdom prices.

"*Claiming of Yearlings by Tanners.*—On the 26th June, 1941, the Committee agreed that it was desirable that up to 100 per cent. of yearlings, all weights and grades, be made available to tanners for military leather, and this was approved by the Hon. the Minister of Marketing. As there was no export competition for yearlings the Committee set up a sub-committee to agree upon the export price of yearlings for all grades, this price to be regarded as the equivalent of the present export bid price at auctions and for tenders.

"This export price continued until 24th October, 1942, when the price schedule was reviewed by the Committee in line with the then export parity. This schedule is still in force.

"*Financial Report.*—The following summary shows the position of the Equalization Fund as at the 31st March, 1943:—

	£	s.	d.
"Cash in hand on 1st April, 1942	9,755	16	4
"Receipts from levy	100,367	19	8
	110,123	16	0
"Less claims paid to tanners, freezing companies, and exporters	71,087	12	6
	39,036	3	6
"Expenses to 31st March, 1943	£	s.	d.
"Salaries	875	0	0
"Telegrams, stamps, and petty expenses	22	19	6
"Travelling-expenses	32	13	10
"Sundries (rent, phone, cleaning, &c.)	56	18	2
"Audit fees	56	1	8
"Bank charge and cheque-books	4	10	0
	1,048	3	2
"Cash in hand	37,988	0	4
"From this must be deducted claims which were finalized but not paid at 31st March, 1943	10,343	10	0
	27,644	10	4
"To this must be added estimated levy due on hides which have not been shipped or for which payment has not been received from H.M. Customs as at 31st March, 1943	10,010	0	0
"Leaving an estimated surplus in hand of	£37,654	10	4

"The amount of surplus funds shown (£37,654 10s. 4d.) may appear large, but it is necessary as the tanners have been claiming very freely while hides are available, and the proportion of hides required by tanners continues gradually to increase. In any case it is impossible to achieve anything approaching an unchanging levy for a twelve-monthly period unless there is an adequate reserve.