

Equalization Account, helping to compensate for the loss which it sustains through lower local consumption. During the year, Great Britain has required all butter available, first-grade and second-grade creamery and whey, and local whey butter sales accordingly show a decrease of approximately 400,000 lb. through pastrycooks and manufacturers, who are the large users of whey butter, having their purchases limited. In summary, the loss in differentials due to rationing has been more than compensated by the saving in freight and storage and by the collection of differentials on butter for the Pacific area, leaving a balance at the end of the financial year slightly greater than the accumulation for the previous year.

Butter Sales, 1944-45 (Lb.)

Month.	Creamery.		Whey: To Manufacturers and to Factory Suppliers.
	To New Zealand Public.	To U.S.J.P.B.	
1944			
April	4,082,527	2,246,952	48,245
May	4,631,002	3,091,348	59,979
June	4,132,384	958,666	31,343
July	4,214,818	436,460	38,990
August	4,598,899	936,090	43,706
September	4,261,018	1,076,998	41,897
October	4,562,950	2,373,052	56,455
November	4,242,198	3,083,442	51,307
December	4,351,492	1,400,866	45,378
1945			
January	4,137,276	2,475,946	40,248
February	4,064,089	2,582,666	46,581
March	4,355,127	2,532,810	45,969
	51,633,780	23,195,296	550,098

DRY BUTTERFAT

During the year the dry-butterfat plant was not required to process any butter for Great Britain, since the United Kingdom could take all the available butters of all classes and grades. The plant, however, has been used to some extent, particularly in recovering butterfat from parchment stripped from bulk butter at the tinning plant and at Auckland and Wellington patting plants. In addition, it processed dairy butter, some quantities of under-grade butter unsuitable for export, and some butter returned from Pacific islands which had deteriorated. The whole of the resulting dry butterfat has been sold, turning to profit what would otherwise have been complete loss.

PATTING PLANTS

The patting plants at Wellington and Auckland have operated to full capacity, the Auckland plant running up to two and three shifts at times. Staffing proved difficult, but the Division has managed to supply all civilian and military requirements. The patting machinery, running as it has for long periods at high pressure, has needed considerable attention and overhaul, and will probably have to be replaced as soon as new machinery is available. Naturally, machines running up to twenty-four hours a day wear out much faster than when they run only one or two days a week.