

1905.
NEW ZEALAND.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE COLONY ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1905.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

SIR,—

I have the honour to furnish a statement of the approximate number of sheep in the colony on the 30th April, 1905.

Department of Agriculture,
Wellington, 8th July, 1905.

I have, &c.,

JOHN D. RITCHIE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER of SHEEP in the Colony on the 30th April, 1905.

District.	Number of Sheep.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1904.*	1905.		
Auckland	685,799	619,390	...	66,409
Napier	4,482,877	4,601,429	118,552	...
Wellington—West Coast	4,035,287	4,172,849	137,562	...
Marlborough—Nelson	937,488	947,273	9,785	...
Canterbury—Kaikoura	4,778,612	5,240,144	461,532	...
Otago	3,360,743	3,540,839	180,096	...
Total	18,280,806	19,121,924	907,527	66,409
		Increase, North Island	...	189,705
		Increase, South Island	...	651,413
		Total increase	...	841,118

* Complete returns.

The increase may be accounted for as follows:—

1. There were about 150,000 more ewes put to the ram during the season 1904.
2. The lambing was above the average.
3. The export of mutton and lamb decreased by 668,749 carcasses.

According to the agricultural and pastoral statistics for 1904–5, cattle showed a further increase of 143,303.

It is confidently anticipated that the flocks will continue to show a steady increase, as farmers are now realising the necessity for holding back a proportion of ewe lambs for breeding purposes.