

SESSION II.  
1912.  
NEW ZEALAND.

## INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE DOMINION ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1912.

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

Department of Agriculture, Commerce, and Tourists,  
Wellington, 24th July, 1912.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF SHEEP IN THE DOMINION ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1912.

District.	Number of Sheep.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1911.*	1912.		
Auckland ... ..	1,246,000	1,259,557	13,557	...
Napier-Gisborne ... ..	5,667,472	5,595,616	...	71,856
Wellington - West Coast... ..	5,900,881	5,762,916	...	137,965
Marlborough-Nelson-Westland ... ..	1,361,025	1,293,300	...	67,725
Canterbury-Kaikoura ... ..	5,213,439	4,925,744	...	287,695
Otago ... ..	4,607,309	4,626,999	19,690	...
Total ... ..	23,996,126	23,464,132	33,247	565,241
		Decrease, North Island	...	196,264
		Decrease, South Island	...	335,730
		Total decrease	...	531,994

\* Complete returns.

The decrease is principally accounted for by the shortage of close upon 200,000 breeding ewes last season as compared with the previous year, with its corresponding decrease in the number of lambs produced, which was further accentuated by a smaller lambing than in the previous season.

NUMBER OF SHEEP IN THE DOMINION, AND EXPORT OF MUTTON AND LAMB, FOR THE PAST  
TEN YEARS, AT 30TH APRIL.

Year.	Number of Sheep in Dominion.	Mutton Carcases exported.	Legs and Pieces exported.	Lamb Carcases exported.
1903	18,954,553	2,497,546	Cwt. 87,250	2,006,462
1904	18,280,806	2,388,959	40,472	2,104,831
1905	19,130,875	1,888,065	24,088	1,937,026
1906	20,108,471	1,500,773	13,471	2,134,563
1907	20,983,772	1,921,465	37,456	2,519,417
1908	22,449,053	1,821,426	35,663	2,826,437
1909	23,480,707	1,899,446	41,681	2,910,358
1910	24,269,620	1,711,839	52,873	3,423,918
1911	23,996,126	1,979,534	42,624	3,708,468
1912	23,464,132*	1,918,119	34,667	3,035,783

\* Approximate.

W. F. MASSEY,  
Minister of Agriculture.

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