

1920.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT SUPPLIES.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS COVERING THE PERIOD FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1919, TO THE
31ST MARCH, 1920, INCLUDING AN APPENDIX SHOWING RESULTS TO THE 30TH JUNE, 1920.

Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave.

SIR,—

Wellington, 30th June, 1920.

I have the honour to submit a review of the operations of the Department of Imperial Government Supplies from the 1st April, 1919, to the 31st March, 1920.

FROZEN MEAT.

The revised schedule of prices agreed to in October, 1916, by the Imperial Board of Trade and the freezing companies concerned has remained operative.

In October, 1919, instructions were received from the Imperial Government that the system of telescoping carcasses of mutton and lamb should be discontinued.

In December, 1919, the Imperial Board of Trade advised that in order to relieve the congestion existing in New Zealand freezing-stores it was proposed to ship considerable quantities of New Zealand lamb to the United States of America on Imperial Government account. Subsequently definite advice was received of sales effected to American purchasers, and up to the 31st March, 1920, two shipments had been made in accordance with the Imperial Government's instructions—viz., 27,290 carcasses per s.s. "Northumberland," and 251,798 carcasses per s.s. "Armagh," which steamers sailed on the 13th and 27th March respectively for New York and Boston.

The total quantities of meat purchased and shipped from the 1st April, 1919, to the 31st March, 1920, were—

Beef (quarters)	432,784
Mutton (carcasses)	3,906,751
Lamb (carcasses)	3,761,166
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	31,922

The total quantities of meat purchased and shipped from the inception of the requisition (3rd March, 1915) to the 31st March, 1920, were as follows:—

Beef (quarters)	2,885,043
Mutton (carcasses)	12,299,080
Lamb (carcasses)	13,625,510
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	286,471

The total payments for meat to the 31st March, 1920, including storage and advances, amounted to £44,344,503, which was distributed as under:—

	£	£
Auckland	3,900,627	
Poverty Bay	4,729,446	
Hawke's Bay	4,663,971	
Taranaki	1,748,384	
Wellington	13,252,319	
North Island	28,294,747	
Marlborough	307,958	
Nelson	191,134	
Canterbury	9,845,052	
Otago	3,077,235	
Southland	2,628,377	
South Island	16,049,756	
Grand total	£44,344,503	