

FROZEN MEAT.

The revised schedule of prices agreed to in October, 1916, by the Imperial Board of Trade and the freezing companies concerned remained operative until the termination of the contract at 30th June, 1920.

A great effort was made by the Imperial authorities during the year to relieve the congestion existing in New Zealand freezing-stores so as to allow free operations to be carried on by freezing companies under normal conditions.

The sales to American purchasers mentioned in my last report were continued, and from the 1st April, 1920, 2,103,259 carcasses lamb and 464,463 carcasses light-weight wether mutton were shipped to the United States of America in fourteen steamers.

On the 8th October, 1920, the Imperial Government also announced the sale of all beef in quarters, in store and afloat, to Messrs. Vestey Bros. Special arrangements were made for the carriage of this beef, and 388,862 quarters were shipped in six steamers of the Blue Star Line and two chartered steamers.

The total quantities of meat shipped from the 1st April, 1920, to 31st March, 1921, were—

Beef (quarters)	..	..	..	571,484
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	5,043,097
Lamb (carcasses)	..	..	..	4,042,293
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	..	..	..	81,611

The total quantities of meat purchased from the inception of the Imperial Government purchase (3rd March, 1915) to the 30th June, 1920 (the date of the termination of the final contract), were as follows:—

Beef (quarters)	..	..	..	3,671,885
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	17,447,046
Lamb (carcasses)	..	..	..	17,681,218
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	..	..	..	370,469

The total quantities shipped during the period 3rd March, 1915, to 31st March, 1921, were as follows:—

Beef (quarters)	..	..	..	3,456,527
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	17,342,177
Lamb (carcasses)	..	..	..	17,667,803
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	..	..	..	368,082

including 2,382,347 carcasses lamb and 464,463 carcasses mutton consigned to New York and Boston.

The respective quantities shipped from each port are set out in an appendix hereto.

The losses of Imperial Government meat in New Zealand during the same period were as follows:—

Lost by wreck during loading operations—				
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	1,710
Destroyed by fire—				
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	4,987
Deteriorated in works and subsequently canned or boiled down—				
Beef (quarters)	..	..	..	477
Mutton (carcasses)	..	..	..	25,139
Lamb (carcasses)	..	..	..	9,007

equal to 0.107 per cent. of the total purchases.