

The contract prices paid for fellmongering have been as follows :—

1st January, 1917, to 31st December, 1919 :—					
Fellmongering	..	..	..	..	2½d. per pound on weight of wool.
Curing pelts	..	..	..	..	3s. 9d. per dozen (casks extra).
1st January, 1920, to 31st January, 1921 :—					
Fellmongering wool—					
48/50's quality and upwards	..	..	..	..	2½d. per pound on weight of wool.
Other qualities	..	..	..	..	2¾d. per pound on weight of wool.
Curing pelts	..	..	..	..	4s. 6d. per dozen (casks extra).

STOCKS OF WOOL.

The following table shows the stocks of wool held in New Zealand on behalf of the Imperial Government at the 31st March, 1921 :—

	Greasy.	Station-scoured.	Station Slupe.	Government-scoured.	Government Slupe.	Freezer Slupe.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Merino ..	2,161	823	57	1,806	287	..	5,134
Halfbred 50/56's to 58's ..	19,538	919	47	3,648	560	8,231	32,943
Fine crossbred 46/48's to 50's ..	58,259	705	100	15,050	7,777	25,903	107,794
Medium crossbred 40/44's to 46's	107,238	213	109	28,681	10,231	14,025	160,497
Coarse crossbred 36's to 40's ..	4,921	4	4	566	1,997	1,043	8,535
Grand totals ..	192,117	2,664	317	49,751	20,852	49,202	314,903

SURPLUS WOOL PROFITS.

The first and second contracts for the purchase of wool by the Imperial Government—namely, for the 1916–17 and 1917–18 greasy clips, provided for the return to New Zealand wool-growers of one-half of the profits made on wool sold for other than military purposes.

The third contract, which covered the purchase of the 1918–19 and 1919–20 greasy clips, contained the same provision, with the addition that the same amount per pound of wool would be returned to New Zealand wool-growers as was returned to Australian wool-growers, the sum paid, however, not to exceed the profit actually realized on these New Zealand clips.

The accounts to the 31st March, 1919, prepared by the Imperial Government, showed an amount due to New Zealand wool-growers of £1,619,069, and this sum was transferred to New Zealand and was distributed, less cost of distribution and a flat rate of income-tax of 3s. 4d. in the pound, to wool-growers *pro rata* to the appraised value of the wool of the 1916–17, 1917–18, and 1918–19 clips purchased from each.

Of the amount received, £19,644 was set aside to make a similar *pro rata* payment on wool of the 1916–17 clip forwarded to London for sale prior to the commencement of appraisement in New Zealand of wool of that clip, and purchased in London by the Imperial Government on the same basis as the purchases were made in New Zealand.

Later communications from the Imperial authorities show that the proceeds of these consignments were not included in the accounts rendered, and the Imperial Government has agreed to make a further payment on these wools from its own share of profits.

The balance of £19,644 has therefore been invested pending any further payment of surplus profits which may accrue for distribution after the liquidation of the unsold stocks of wool.

SHIPPING.

Very great efforts were made during the year to effect a clearance of the freezing-works before the new season under free trading-conditions commenced.

The delay owing to labour troubles in opening the freezing season extended the opportunities for lifting Imperial Government meat, and when the season commenced on the 2nd January, 1921, stocks of Imperial meat in freezing-stores for which shipping-space had not been allocated amounted to only 977,202 freight carcases (60 lb.).