

During the months January to March, 1921, it was necessary to devote only 33½ per cent. of the insulated shipping-space available to Imperial refrigerated cargo, the balance being filled with free meat and cheese.

The following table shows the number of insulated steamers which have sailed from the Dominion during the years 1914 to 1920, inclusive, together with their total insulated carrying-capacity:—

Year.						Number of Steamers.	Total Insulated Capacity (60 lb. Freight Carcases).
1914	..	..	..	..	..	99	8,800,700
1915	..	..	..	..	..	84	7,682,000
1916	..	..	..	..	..	78	7,322,500
1917	..	..	..	..	..	62	5,626,350
1918	..	..	..	..	..	52	4,926,300
1919	..	..	..	..	..	79	7,694,000
1920	..	..	..	..	..	94	8,875,500

The New Zealand Overseas Shipowners' Committee, which was established in March, 1915, to regulate the distribution and allocation of space in overseas steamers loading in the Dominion, continued to meet daily, and carried out its duties with impartiality according to the requirements of the different districts.

The Committee's work will be completed when the final shipment of Imperial Government produce is made.

Mr. James Findlay, O.B.E., New Zealand representative of the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company (Limited), has been chairman of the Committee from its inception, and a great deal of the success of the Committee has been due to his guidance.

The New Zealand Government has been represented on the Committee since March, 1915, by the Controller of this Department, or by his Deputy, the Assistant Controller, and the Department has furnished the information regarding the quantities of meat held in store at the various freezing-works, and the quantities of butter, cheese, and wool available for shipment on the basis of which allocations were undertaken.

PRODUCE IN STORE AWAITING SHIPMENT.

The following table shows the quantities of meat, cheese, and butter in store and awaiting shipment on the 31st March for the last six years:—

Date.	—			Frozen Meat.	Cheese.	Butter.
				60 lb. Carcases.	Crates.	Boxes.
31st March, 1916	On account Imperial Government	..	..	2,152,250	73,927	(Free) 87,678
31st March, 1917	..	..	..	2,409,541	185,417	(Free) 224,506
31st March, 1918	..	..	..	3,398,364	363,790	350,315
31st March, 1919	..	..	..	6,482,529	474,754	93,729
31st March, 1920	..	..	..	6,628,789	274,411	77,482
31st March, 1921	..	..	..	600,956	..	251,029
..	Free	..	..	3,098,216	307,222	..

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.

Total disbursements by the Department from the 3rd March, 1915, to the 31st March, 1921, were as follows:—

	£
Frozen meat	53,039,535
Cheese	21,160,884
Butter	16,571,130
Scheelite	178,481
Wool	52,882,583
Freezing companies' slipe wool	7,525,305
Sheep-skins	3,279,499
Hides	741,208
Miscellaneous	3,198,019
	<u>£158,576,644</u>

The total disbursements to 31st March, 1920, were £133,091,240.