

HEMP AND TOW GRADING RETURNS.

MARCH.

Hemp.—The total number of bales graded was 17,553, as compared with 9,343 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 8,210 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st March, 1913, the number of bales graded was 120,542, as compared with 85,684 for the previous twelve months, the increase being 34,858 bales.

Tow.—During the month 6,439 bales were dealt with, as compared with 2,678 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 3,761 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st March, 1913, the number of bales graded was 39,933, as compared with 23,433 for the previous twelve months, the increase being 16,500 bales.

HEMP, TOW, AND STRIPPER-SLIPS GRADED THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH, 1913.

Hemp.

Port.	Superior.	Fine.	Good-fair.	Fair.	Common.	Rejected.	Condemned.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland	581	2,598	600	50	28	3,857
Napier	189	184	76	..	..	..	449
Foxton	942	2,962	284	6	..	4,194
Wellington	1,140	3,583	596	11	..	5,332
Blenheim	60	111	55	..	..	..	226
Picton	178	71	252	114	..	..	615
Lyttelton
Dunedin	22	246	452	23	..	..	743
Bluff	379	1,686	72	..	..	2,137
Totals	451	3,654	11,664	1,689	67	28	17,553
Percentages of totals	..	2.57	20.82	66.45	9.62	0.38	0.16	100

Tow.

Port.	First Grade.	Second Grade.	Third Grade.	Condemned.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland ..	9	424	1,025	264	1,722
Napier ..	..	94	60	..	154
Foxton ..	137	628	252	11	1,028
Wellington ..	269	1,143	616	60	2,088
Blenheim ..	46	21	68	..	135
Picton ..	115	47	62	..	224
Lyttelton ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin ..	..	74	181	..	255
Bluff ..	14	285	467	67	833
Totals ..	590	2,716	2,731	402	6,439

Stripper-slips.—Passed for shipment: Auckland, 85; Napier, 12; Foxton, 390; Wellington, 800; Blenheim, 16; Picton, 2; Dunedin, 11; Bluff, 81—total, 1,397. Condemned: Auckland, 18; Foxton, 107; Wellington, 89; Dunedin, 4; Bluff, 17—total, 235.