

COMMERCIAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND POTATOES.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING AUSTRALIAN IMPORTATION OF POTATOES FOR FOOD PURPOSES.

THE official Commonwealth conditions under which potatoes grown in New Zealand may be imported into Australia for food purposes until 31st December, 1913, are as follows :—

(a.) That the potatoes are accompanied by an official certificate identifying the shipment and certifying that they were grown in New Zealand, and that they have been inspected and show no signs of the following diseases :—

<i>Phytophthora infestans</i>	..	Potato-blight.
<i>Synchytrium endobioticum</i>	..	Potato-canker, black scab, warty disease, and cauliflower-disease in potatoes.
<i>Lila solanella</i>	Potato-moth.
<i>Oospora scabies (Thaxter)</i>	..	Potato-scab.
<i>Anguillulidae</i>	Gall or eelworm.

(b.) That they are packed in clean new bags.

(c.) That the bags, crates, or other packages are marked with the name of the country of origin.

(d.) That upon inspection at the port of discharge in Australia the potatoes are found free from disease, and are so certified by a Plant Quarantine Officer.

(e.) That no importation shall take place without the permission of the Minister given prior to the shipment of the potatoes from New Zealand.

Produce-merchants desiring to import should make application for the Minister's authority to the Chief Quarantine Officer for Plants, Department of Agriculture of the State into which it is desired to import the potatoes.

LONDON WOOL-SALES.

The High Commissioner, under date of London, 6th March, reports as follows on the second series of London wool-sales :—

The second series of this year's colonial wool-sales commenced on Tuesday afternoon, when catalogues comprising 9,516 bales, of which 4,311 were from New Zealand, were submitted to auction. There was a very large attendance of buyers and others interested at the opening, and competition for all parcels submitted was exceedingly keen. This competition was, however, confined mainly to Home and Continental buyers. Representatives of American houses, although present at the sale, refrained from operating, the reason for this abstention being understood to be the uncertainty at present existing regarding tariffs in America. This consequently caused the advance in prices that had been anticipated by brokers and others closely connected with the woollen industry to be less than expected.

On the first day of the sales there were few lots of merino wool submitted, the offerings being almost entirely confined to crossbreds. For the few merinos, as also for fine crossbreds, bidding, while brisk, was not sufficiently keen to raise prices above those ruling for these classes at the close of the last series of sales. For medium and coarse crossbreds, however, values were advanced on average about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per pound. This information was, as usual, cabled to Wellington on the evening of the opening day of