

the sales. Since then, however, some attractive lines of merino wool have been submitted, and the value both of merinos of all grades and of fine crossbreds have participated in an advance of about $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Manufacturers everywhere are busy, and mills are fully employed with orders to keep them occupied for some length of time to come. Consumption of wool is naturally large, and the demand is reported to be in excess of the supply. The market, therefore, is very strong, and there is every prospect of the advance in price being continued.

The quantity of wool available for the present series of sales is 155,073 bales. Of these, 76,400 are from the Dominion.

FROZEN MEAT IN SWITZERLAND.

The High Commissioner furnishes the following despatch from H.M. Minister at Berne, dated 10th February, in regard to frozen meat imported into Switzerland :—

With reference to my despatch No. 5, Commercial, respecting frozen-meat imports into Switzerland, I have now the honour to forward the following further information, which covers the whole year 1912.

Frozen-meat imports into Switzerland during 1911 :—

				Kg.	Per Cent.
Australia	..	..	..	150,000	13.5
New Zealand	..	..	..	16,800	1.5
Argentine	..	..	..	946,500	85.0
Total	..	..	..	1,113,300	

Frozen-meat imports into Switzerland during 1912 :—

				Kg.	Per Cent.
Australia	..	..	..	503,000	20.25
New Zealand	..	..	..	17,800	0.75
Argentine	..	..	..	1,952,200	78.75
Other countries	..	..	..	6,900	0.25
Total	..	..	..	2,479,900	

It should be borne in mind that the London strike interfered considerably with the import of frozen meat *via* London; that the agency opened by Messrs. W. Weddel and Co., of London, at Geneva did not commence business until after August, 1912; and that, owing to the Italian market being overstocked with Argentine meat, prices for this article were quoted in Switzerland much below London rates. In consequence of this hardly any business was done in Australian meat during the latter part of December last.

GERMANY AS A MARKET FOR NEW ZEALAND FRUIT.

G. L. KNOWLES.

In view of the ever-increasing production of fruit in general, and of the apple in particular, in New Zealand, the following translation of a short article which appeared in the Hamburg newspaper *Import-Export-Transport* on the 22nd February, 1913, should be of very special interest to those fruitgrowers engaged in the search for outlets for their products overseas :—

“The fruit crop in Germany having been very poor during a number of recent past seasons, especially with regard to apples, of which only very frugal harvests have been gathered, it became necessary to import, and the importers extended a welcome alike to America, Australia, France, and Italy as sources of fresh supply. The German importers have now, however, cause for complaint in that the American apples imported in barrels are so badly sorted and graded that, considering the trouble and risk involved in handling, the net profit is only very small. Consequently the importers are now determined that this bad grading shall be stopped, and they are ordering more in box-packings, on account of the better grading and greater weight they receive in this form of packing. The trade in barrel-packed apples has, therefore, in the meantime, some-