

HEMP AND TOW GRADING RETURNS.

MAY.

Hemp.—The total number of bales graded was 17,107, as compared with 9,931 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 7,176 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st May, 1913, the number of bales graded was 137,169, as compared with 90,529 for the previous twelve months, the increase being 46,640 bales.

Tow.—During the month 5,128 bales were dealt with, as compared with 2,814 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 2,314 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st May, 1913, the number of bales graded was 47,003, as compared with 24,855 for the previous twelve months, the increase being 22,148 bales.

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

Hemp.

Port.	Superior.	Fine.	Good-fair.	Fair.	Common.	Rejected.	Condemned.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland	666	2,212	903	114	27	3,922
Napier
Foxton	1,569	3,865	220	..	..	5,654
Wellington	1,913	2,454	236	67	12	4,682
Blenheim	71	208	..	..	..	..	279
Picton	175	105	125	13	..	..	418
Lyttelton	52	..	..	..	..	..	52
Dunedin	21	194	502	261	..	..	978
Bluff	125	821	156	20	..	1,122
Totals	319	4,780	9,979	1,789	201	39	17,107
Percentages of totals	..	1·87	27·94	58·33	10·46	1·17	0·23	..

Tow.

Port.	First Grade.	Second Grade.	Third Grade.	Condemned.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland ..	26	377	744	281	1,428
Napier ..	..	..	..	..	..
Foxton ..	214	603	379	..	1,196
Wellington ..	178	1,026	207	56	1,467
Blenheim ..	38	..	..	..	38
Picton ..	167	29	13	..	209
Lyttelton ..	13	76	..	..	89
Dunedin ..	..	80	70	35	185
Bluff ..	..	92	339	85	516
Totals ..	636	2,283	1,752	457	5,128

Stripper-slips.—Passed for export: Auckland, 23; Foxton, 248; Wellington, 433; Picton, 44; Lyttelton, 12; Dunedin, 37; Bluff, 8—total, 805. Condemned: Auckland, 3; Wellington, 30; Dunedin, 7; Bluff, 10—total, 50.