

HEMP AND TOW GRADING RETURNS.

MAY.

Hemp.—The total number of bales graded was 10,841, as compared with 9,463 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 1,378 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st May, 1916, the number of bales graded was 143,436, as compared with 83,049 for the previous twelve months, an increase of 60,387 bales.

Tow.—During the month 2,268 bales were dealt with, as compared with 2,535 for the corresponding month of last year, a decrease of 267 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st May, 1916, the number of bales graded was 39,393, as compared with 22,616 for the previous twelve months, an increase of 16,777 bales.

Stripper-slips.—The number of bales graded was 303, as compared with 99 for the corresponding month of last year, an increase of 204 bales. For the twelve months ending 31st May, 1916, the number of bales graded was 6,458, as compared with 1,414 for the previous twelve months, an increase of 5,044 bales.

HEMP, TOW, AND STRIPPER-SLIPS GRADED THROUGHOUT THE DOMINION DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, 1916.

Hemp.

Port.	Superior.	Fine.	Good-fair.	Fair.		Common.	Rejected.	Con-demned.	Total.
				High Point.	Low Point.				
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland	23	1,033	1,568	373	41	1	3,039
Napier
Foxton	667	1,085	298	5	16	..	2,071
Wellington	13	501	2,448	367	42	8	3,379
Picton	72	26	..	..	..	..	98
Blenheim	199	65	23	4	..	..	291
Lyttelton
Dunedin	131	173	153	15	..	..	472
Bluff	166	445	722	137	21	..	1,491
Totals	85	1,713	5,249	3,131	576	86	1	10,841
Percentages of totals	0.78	15.80	48.42	28.88	5.32	0.79	0.01	..

Tow.

Port.	First Grade.	Second Grade.	Third Grade.	Condemned.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Auckland ..	..	271	623	137	1,031
Napier ..	..	..	..	..	..
Foxton ..	214	57	4	..	275
Wellington ..	58	13	49	..	120
Picton ..	..	40	..	..	40
Blenheim ..	52	125	..	..	177
Lyttelton ..	..	..	..	..	..
Dunedin ..	..	86	30	1	117
Bluff ..	..	87	393	28	508
Totals ..	324	679	1,099	166	2,268

Stripper-slips.—Foxton: Second grade, 150; condemned, 1. Wellington: First grade, 14; second grade, 96; condemned, 5. Blenheim: Second grade, 28. Dunedin: Condemned, 3. Bluff: Second grade, 6.