

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON WOOL-SALES.

FOLLOWING is the High Commissioner's cabled report, dated 11th July, 1916, regarding the opening of the fifth series of London wool-sales:—

The wool-sales commenced with buyers in large attendance. Home buyers prohibited from purchasing English wool are competing freely. The market is strong for all kinds of merinos, which are in small supply. Compared with the closing rates of the previous sales, prices for merinos have improved by 2d. per pound; fine crossbreds are ½d. per pound higher, and medium and coarse crossbreds have fallen ½d. per pound. The total net quantity of New Zealand wool available is 59,250 bales.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP.

The Interim Return of Sheep in the Dominion as at 30th April, 1916, shows a total of 24,607,868 head. Compared with the complete returns for the previous year this is a decrease of 293,553. The following sheep districts show increases: Auckland, 155,920; Wellington—West Coast, 876,527; Marlborough—Nelson—Westland, 17,320. The decreases are: Napier—Gisborne, 661,661; Canterbury—Kaikoura, 620,066; Otago, 61,593. Calculating by islands, the North Island has an increase of 370,786 and the South Island a decrease of 664,339. It is expected that the full returns will largely, if not quite, wipe out the net aggregate shortage shown in the interim return.

REGISTRATIONS OF FACTORIES, ETC., UNDER THE DAIRY INDUSTRY ACT, 1908.

REGISTRATIONS AS AT 30TH APRIL, 1916.

District.	Creameries (Butter).	Factories (Cheese).	Private Dairies.		Packing- houses (Milled Butter).	Totals.
			Butter.	Cheese.		
Auckland	55	50	6	6	11	128
Taranaki	46	106	45	2	4	203
Wellington	26	57	5	2	24	114
Hawke's Bay	11	26	..	..	..	37
Nelson	7	5	2	1	14	29
Marlborough	4	7	..	..	..	11
Westland	7	3	..	..	..	10
Canterbury	12	15	1	11	8	47
Otago and Southland	5	112	..	2	4	123
Totals, 1916	173	381	59	24	65	702
Totals, 1915	167	330	64	24	63	648