

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

LONDON WOOL-SALES.

FOLLOWING is the High Commissioner's cabled report, dated 22nd September, 1916, regarding the closing of the sixth series of London wool-sales:—

The wool-sales closed with a good demand for all classes of wool. Prospects are favourable. Estimated closing-values are as follows: Fine crossbreds, 1s. 9d. to 2s.; medium crossbreds, 1s. 5d. to 1s. 7d.; coarse crossbreds, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6½d.; superior merino, 1s. 10d. to 2s. 1d.; medium merino, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; inferior merino, 1s. 2½d. to 1s. 5d.

5,500 bales of New Zealand wool are held over.

FRANCE AND FROZEN MEAT.

THE French Chamber of Deputies on the 6th June last passed a private Bill authorizing the purchase by the Minister of War, for the use of the army, of a maximum amount of 30,000 tons of frozen meat per annum, to be supplied exclusively from Algeria and the French colonies and protectorates—one-fifth of the quantity to consist of mutton.

SHEEP STATISTICS.

THE sheep statistics printed in last month's *Journal* gave the number of sheep in New Zealand in 1915 as 24,824,394, as published last year. This number did not include certain late supplementary returns (8,661), nor the sheep in the Chatham Islands (68,366). Adding these two items, the total for 1915 is 24,901,421. The total for 1916—viz., 24,788,150—includes the Chatham Islands. Comparing the totals for the two years on this basis, the decrease in 1916 is shown to be 113,271. It may be mentioned that the Chatham Islands flocks have not been included in the annual sheep returns until the present year. They are now embodied in the Canterbury-Kaikoura Sheep District.

ORCHARD-TAX ACT REGULATIONS.

THE following regulations under the Orchard-tax Act, 1916, have been issued:—

1. For the purposes of these regulations—

“Federation” means the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation (Limited);

“Director” or “Assistant Director” means the Director or Assistant Director of the Horticulture Division of the Department of Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce.

2. The moneys paid to the Federation pursuant to the said Act may be utilized for all or any of the following purposes:—

(a.) The establishment and maintenance of the registered office of the Federation:

(b.) The payment of salaries and travelling-expenses of officers in the employ of the Federation:

(c.) The purchase of orchard requisites required by the Federation for testing purposes:

(d.) The investigation, testing, and opening-up of new markets for the export of fruit:

(e.) The organization and improvement of local fruit-markets:

(f.) The defraying of expenses in connection with executive meetings of the Federation and the annual conference of fruitgrowers:

Provided that the general policy of the Federation in relation to the matters referred to in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this clause must receive the written approval