

of the cross with any of the Down ewes make an excellent line and mature quickly. Mated with half-bred or Corriedale ewes the line produced is a good one, but takes slightly longer to fatten than the Down cross. The progeny of the cross with Romney, Border Leicester, English Leicester, or crossbred ewes is usually very suitable for the meat trade.

#### DORSET HORN.

The Dorset Horn is another breed suitable for either fat lamb or mutton. Only a few have been imported into New Zealand at different times, and thus there has not been enough of the breed about to make it conspicuous. It has been noticed, however, that when the rams were mated with other lines of ewes the progeny came to hand early and gave a suitable carcase.

#### CORRIEDALE.

Finally, reference must be made to a breed of purely New Zealand origin, the Corriedale. Owing to the strain of Merino in it, this breed takes a little longer to fatten than some others, but when ready it makes a very good carcase. The meat is nicely fine in the grain and pleasant to the palate. If unable to fatten the lambs in time they can with safety be held over. The hogget gives a fleece of splendid wool, after which it can be fattened and sold. If the ewes are held for breeding purposes they may be counted on for a lamb and a good fleece every year as long as their teeth last.

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#### INCIDENCE OF THE FAT-LAMB INDUSTRY.

In order to give an indication of the extent and distribution of fat-lamb raising in New Zealand the gradings of the lambs slaughtered during the 5½ years' period of the Imperial meat requisition (1915-20) are here set out as follows:—

Specially prime and Canterbury quality: North Island, 543,546 carcasses; South Island, 5,804,527; Dominion total, 6,348,073.

First quality, 42 lb. and under: North Island, 4,411,941; South Island, 1,734,913; Dominion, 6,146,854.

First quality, over 42 lb.: North Island, 257,459; South Island, 1,125,842; Dominion, 1,383,301.

Second quality: North Island, 987,882; South Island, 1,938,142; Dominion, 2,926,024.

Of the above aggregate total for the Dominion of 16,804,252 carcasses the number killed at the freezing-works in the Canterbury Province was 7,158,149, graded as follows: Specially prime and Canterbury quality, 5,029,994; first quality, 42 lb. and under, 279,029; first quality, over 42 lb., 677,399; second quality, 1,171,727. This leaves 9,646,103 which were killed at the remainder of the meat-export works in the Dominion.