

the Export Division under contract with the United Kingdom Ministry of Food—namely, butter and cheese, processed milk, frozen meat, canned corned beef, and mutton.

The shipping arrangements for all food products required by the War Office were, however, to be carried out by the Export Division.

The value of these products shipped during the period ending 31st July, 1941, is £77,077.

FRUIT.

It is to be regretted that owing to shortage of refrigerated shipping space it was not found possible to ship any apples or pears to the United Kingdom or North America during the past season.

The staff of the Fruit Sales Division, London, is now being used in connection with the general work entailed by contracts for other products with the Ministry of Food and Ministry of Supply.

SUMMARY OF VOLUME AND VALUE OF SALES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st JULY, 1941.

Product.	Volume.	Equivalent Weight (in Tons).	Value f.o.b. (in New Zealand Currency).
			£
Butter	5,257,720 boxes	131,443	18,336,263
Cheese	1,611,168 crates	115,083	9,108,330
Frozen meat		267,426	16,223,768
Wool*	894,742 bales	136,158	17,810,805
Tallow		14,345	312,913
Woolly sheep-skins	820,599 skins	2,872	280,419
Canned meat	42,331 cases	1,125	98,680
Scheelite		71	14,663
War Office contracts			77,077
Skim-milk powder	104,598 cases	5,230	234,168
Evaporated milk	82,821 cases	1,695	100,143
Linen-flax fibre	832 bales	85	13,102
Linen-flax seed	5,763 sacks	513	27,336
Totals		676,046	62,637,667

*Totals of wool appraised for twelve months to 30th June, 1941, at f.o.b. value.

GENERAL.

In presenting this report covering the operations of the Export Division of the Department for the year ended 31st July, 1941, it is pleasing to record that the arrangements of the 1940-41 season in respect of production, handling, payment, and shipment of the various products have proceeded smoothly, and all interests concerned have co-operated in meeting the difficulties inherent in the present war situation.

I desire on behalf of the Government to thank the farming industry for their assistance in maintaining production of the various commodities at satisfactory levels, the management and staffs of the manufacturing interests, the storage and transport interests, the handling and loading interests, and the shipping interests for maintaining their respective services, which are all contributing factors to the success of the past season's operations.

As Minister of Marketing, I wish to mention the assistance always forthcoming from organizations with which the Export Division of the Department is in daily contact—the Meat and Dairy Boards, the Freezing Companies' Association, the Overseas Shipowners' Allotment Committee, the Woolbrokers', Woolbuyers', and Woolscourers' associations, and the Cool Stores' Association. The knowledge of the representatives of these organizations has been freely given and has been most valuable to the Department and to the Government.

I desire again to pay tribute to the officers and men of the mercantile marine and the Royal Navy who have been responsible for the transport of the large volume of exports from New Zealand. The people of New Zealand are mindful of the hazards of this fine achievement, and are accordingly grateful.

Finally, I wish to mention the Government representatives in the United Kingdom and the New Zealand staff of the Export Division of the Marketing Department. Our representatives in the United Kingdom have carried out their increased duties most efficiently, notwithstanding the difficulties of the present situation.

The nature and scope of the duties of the New Zealand staff are evident from a perusal of this report, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for their support and co-operation during a difficult period. The release of male members of the staff for service with the armed forces has greatly increased the responsibilities of the junior and female officers, and all members of the staff have responded most willingly and effectively.

J. G. Barclay

Minister of Marketing.