

SHIPMENTS TO TAHITI

Since January, 1942, the Department has been purchasing and shipping to Tahiti on behalf of the Tahiti Administration sundry goods, mainly canned meats, processed milk, butter, and cheese.

The total value c.i.f. Papeete of such goods purchased and shipped up to 31st July, 1943, was £107,091 (New Zealand currency).

SUNDRY SUPPLIES FOR WAR OFFICE

During the year increased supplies of food products, including mainly service biscuits, oatmeal, and processed cheese, have been shipped under contract to the War Office.

The value of the products shipped during the twelve months ended 31st July, 1943, is £2,104,578 (New Zealand currency).

The accounts covering the purchase and sale transactions of the Department in connection with these United Kingdom War Office supplies are shown in the accounts section at the end of this report, page 33. The surplus for the year ended 31st July, 1943, is £4,940.

SHIPPING

The aim of the Department, in conjunction with other interests associated in the handling of produce and the loading of ships, has continued to be the reduction to the minimum of the number of ports of loading, in order to give the quickest "turn-round" for overseas vessels. In this regard it is appropriate to mention particularly the work of a Traffic Committee, formed in 1941 to assist the inland transit of cargo to facilitate the concentration of loadings at main ports. This Committee is an excellent example of co-operation between the New Zealand Railways, the Wellington Harbour Board, the overseas shipping lines, and the Marketing Department to overcome the difficulties attendant on this policy of quick despatch of overseas ships. This Department is represented on the Committee by its Shipping Officer.

A further important factor in the success of the arrangements referred to above has been the co-operation and assistance on all occasions of the representative in New Zealand of the British Ministry of War Transport.

It is fitting that reference should be made to the death of Mr. F. W. Grainger, the Department's Chief Inspector of Shipping and Cold Storage.

During his many years of service with the dairy industry, Mr. Grainger established the present system of supervision and inspection of the methods of handling, transport, and storage of dairy products, which has contributed very substantially to the maintenance of the high quality of our export products. Upon the outbreak of war, Mr. Grainger, who was about to retire, continued in office at the request of the Government, and assumed additional responsibilities associated with New Zealand's war effort.

I desire to record the Government's appreciation of Mr. Grainger's outstanding service.

SUMMARY OF VOLUME AND VALUE OF SALES BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31st JULY, 1943.

Product.	Volume.	Equivalent Net Weight (in Tons).	Value f.o.b. (N.Z. Currency).
			£
Butter	4,094,032 boxes	102,351	14,894,247
Butterfat	85,614 cases	2,943	553,364
Cheese	1,302,233 crates	93,017	8,793,999
Frozen meat	..	299,977	17,334,540
Canned meat	..	21,442	2,298,875
Wool*	892,694 bales	137,608	20,568,860
Woolly sheep-skins	996,235 skins	3,501	369,282
Tallow	..	44,505	1,342,897
Skim-milk powder	99,415 cases	4,971	222,980
Evaporated milk	60,821 cases	1,303	74,133
Linen-flax fibre	..	2,387	389,069
Scheelite	..	86	43,559
War Office contracts	..	..	2,104,578
Hides	109,137 number	..	184,943
Drugs	..	18	8,272
Totals	..	714,109	69,183,598

* Totals of wool appraised for twelve months to 30th June, 1943, at f.o.b. value.

NOTE. The volume and value of butter, cheese, frozen and canned meats includes produce paid for but not shipped at 31st July, 1943.