

Average Price, Marketable Grades

			Loose Bushels.	Paid out.	Average Price to 30th September, 1946.
				£ s. d.	s. d.
Tauranga	..	..	23,365 $\frac{5}{8}$	8,865 3 9	7 7·06
Auckland	..	..	6,623 $\frac{3}{4}$	2,504 4 9	7 6·75
Kerikeri	..	..	3,120 $\frac{1}{4}$	1,152 7 1	7 4·64
Gisborne	..	..	1,466 $\frac{1}{2}$	534 5 0	7 3·46
Totals	..	..	34,576 $\frac{1}{8}$	13,056 0 7	7 6·625

At the end of the year a bonus sufficient to bring average payout for marketable grades to 8s. 2d. per loose bushel will be paid in addition to a wages subsidy of 5d. per loose bushel for both marketable and by-product grades.

Comparative Average Price, 1st April, 1945, to 30th September, 1945

			Loose Bushels.	Paid out.	Average Price.
				£ s. d.	s. d.
Total marketable grades, all sheds			44,502	16,339 7 2	7 4·118

For the six months under review there is a drop in production of approximately 15,000 cases over all grades when compared with the corresponding period last year. This reduction is due mainly to the drought that was experienced during the summer months. The drought was felt mostly in Auckland, Kerikeri, and Gisborne districts, Tauranga being the only district with a reasonably good crop. Weather conditions since the drought have also been unsuitable for good citrus-production.

SUPPLIES TO SOUTH ISLAND

Unfortunately, the shipping position between the North and South Islands has not improved during the last six months, but the Division has endeavoured to see that the South Island has had a fair percentage of the fruit that has been available, as the following figures for the six months ending 31st September, 1946, show :—

			Total for New Zealand (Cases).	South Island.	
				Cases.	Percentage.
Bananas	..	..	137,051	36,000	26·26
Oranges	..	..	78,357	30,011	38·3
Grapefruit	..	..	920	64	7·0
Lemons	..	..	36,743	9,931	27·03
Pineapples	..	..	5,414	2,302	42·5

The small percentage of lemons supplied to the South Island was due to their having a shipment of Californian which were imported in March of which the South Island had the equivalent of 5,518 $\frac{3}{4}$ -bushel cases, which gives them a percentage of 36·5 of sales for the period under review.