

(e) IMPORTATIONS

222. For the year ended 31st January, 1947, a total of 2,879,782 bushels (mostly of Australian wheat) were imported, in comparison with 5,061,191 bushels imported from Canada in the previous year. At the same time 9,019 tons of Australian flour were imported, in comparison with 15,359 tons in the previous year. This flour was, for the most part, mixed with New Zealand flour at the mills. Of the 2,879,782 bushels of wheat imported, some 2,391,997 bushels were landed in the North Island and 487,785 bushels went to South Island ports. During the year 1,299,232 bushels of imported wheat were distributed to the poultry industry, and 1,580,550 bushels went to the mills.

223. A much larger quantity of Australian wheat would have been imported but for the fact that inland transport difficulties developed in Australia towards the close of the year, preventing the movement of the wheat to the ports of shipment. During that period, as a consequence, supply problems in New Zealand increased, and the mills which had, during the war years, carried substantial stocks of wheat were compelled to use these stocks. During that period, too, we accepted 2,069 tons of Australian flour in lieu of wheat. Notwithstanding the difficulties, the requirements of the Dominion in the matter of wheat, flour, and bread continued to be met, except that in December, 1946, some barley had to be borrowed from brewers to augment fowl-wheat supplies in the North Island.

224. Towards the end of 1945 the late Hon. D. G. Sullivan, Minister of Supply and Munitions, on behalf of the New Zealand Government, entered into an arrangement with the Australian Government for the supply to New Zealand of a total quantity of 18,000,000 bushels for the seasons 1945–46 to 1949–50. During the year under review delivery was taken of portion of the first 4,500,000 bushels at an agreed upon rate of 9s. 6d. per bushel bulk basis f.o.b. Australian ports. When the contract was first entered into it was agreed that the price for the remaining 13,500,000 bushels was to be negotiated but was not to exceed 5s. 9d. per bushel, and, more recently, this price of 5s. 9d. per bushel has been confirmed by the respective Governments as the price which will be charged for the balance of the contract.

(f) TRADING RESULTS

225. The main features of the trading results of the Wheat Committee for the year ending 31st January, 1947, are as follows:—

<i>Turnover, by Weight</i>					
					Bushels.
Wheat*	..	..	..	..	7,373,423
				Tons.	Tons.
White flour†	..	..	..	159,056	
Australian flour as such	..	..	..	2,069	
Wholemeal	..	..	..	9,895	
				—————	171,020
Bran	..	..	..	..	17,401
Pollard	..	..	..	..	22,130
Stockmeal gristed locally	..	..	..	..	1,074

* This does not include New Zealand wheat which goes into consumption on farms where it is produced. Only the quantity bought and sold by the Wheat Committee is included. The Committee handled 4,493,641 bushels only of New Zealand wheat, whereas the total production was 5,439,041 bushels.

† The 159,056 tons of white flour sold include some 7,040 tons of Australian flour mixed in at New Zealand flour-mills. This quantity, together with the quantity of 2,069 tons of Australian flour sold as such, totalled 9,109 tons of Australian flour in all.