

(h) TOBACCO-GROWING STATISTICS

247. The following is a comparison between the season under review and the preceding years :—

Season.	Number of Growers.	Contract Acreage.	Amended Contract Acreage.	Production (lb.).
1935-36	499	1,969	*	1,197,161
1936-37	508	2,770	*	1,609,493
1937-38	442	2,563	*	2,067,827
1938-39	342	2,225	*	1,423,610
1939-40	339	2,570	*	2,217,040
1940-41	381	2,963	*	3,143,355
1941-42	381	3,063	2,875	2,721,539
1942-43	360	2,960	2,907	3,185,183
1943-44	414	3,106	3,066	3,083,094
1944-45	487	3,383	3,303	3,286,067
1945-46	553	3,577	3,405	4,080,135

* Not available.

248. The above production figures represent the weight of leaf purchased from growers before redrying. Flue-cured leaf accounted for 93·2 per cent. and air-dried leaf for 6·8 per cent. of the 1945-46 crop.

SECTION 5.—NEW ZEALAND LINEN FLAX CORPORATION

249. The Corporation assumed control of the Industry on 1st April, 1946, and took over the fixed assets of the six factories at Geraldine, Fairlie, Washdyke, Methven, Makihiki, and Winton. The purchase-price was £162,675, and the Corporation undertook to liquidate the remaining fixed assets and the current assets formerly held by the Linen Flax Section of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

250. The first financial period of the Corporation ended on 31st December, 1946, the balance date having been altered from 31st March to 31st December to facilitate the valuation of works in progress. The accounts for the nine months ended 31st December, 1946, now presented disclose a net loss of £1,536, which has been transferred to the liquidation account. The first crop sown by the Corporation was not harvested till early in 1947, and the loss experienced in the nine months ended 31st December, 1946—namely, £1,536—was confined to the completion of the processing of works in progress on hand at 31st March, 1946—that is, the processing of earlier sown crops, many of which had been held for many years and were of very poor quality. This is amply demonstrated by the costing records, which show that, while the 1945-46 crops processed during the nine months yielded profits aggregating £8,500, the remnants of the 1944-45 and earlier crops were processed at a loss of £10,036. By an extension of the costing records of the 1945-46 crop to 30th April, 1947, the profit is shown to have increased from £8,500 to £11,000.

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