

As pointed out in last year's report, the egg subsidy would not be withheld for the extension of poultry veterinary instructional services. This has meant a direct gain to poultry-farmers of 4d. per dozen for one week during the flush production period.

Eggs transferred to Wellington from other floors for the period ended 30th September, 1947, compared with the same period for 1946, are as follows :—

From	Twelve Months ended 30th September,	
	1945-46.	1946-47.
Auckland	143,765	66,030
Hamilton	6,600	20,160
Tauranga	19,020	52,710
Gisborne	59,625	71,087
Hawke's Bay	113,587	144,385
New Plymouth	209,231	135,120
Wanganui	109,385	101,198
Manawatu	101,731	73,241
Carterton	205,072	159,707
Blenheim	80,559	82,114
Nelson	12,702	7,650
Christchurch	241,530	193,640
Ashburton	1,500	13,200
Timaru	57,060	62,363
Dunedin	..	40,230
	1,361,387	1,222,835

CHILLING

As egg-production is of a seasonal nature the Division is most anxious, in common with larger-egg-producing countries such as South Africa, United States, Canada, and Australia, to carry on as extensively as possible with its chilled-egg programme in order to ensure an equitable all-the-year-round supply of eggs in shell for consumer use. Under present conditions it has been difficult to aim at any larger-scale programme, as the main desire has been to release as many fresh eggs in shell for sale to consumers during the flush period. Then, too, any particular larger-scale chilled-egg programme is out of the question until such time as suitable cool-storage facilities are available in the heavy-egg-production areas. The storage accommodation in Christchurch, for example, is very limited, while, on the other hand, a considerable quantity of eggs could be held in cool store in Wellington without much difficulty.

It is true that some adverse criticism has been received in regard to the price and quality of chilled eggs placed on the market during the last two seasons, but the Division is confident that in time, given the necessary facilities, not only will the quality of chilled eggs be comparable with fresh, but with increasing quantities of eggs chilled the price per dozen will be considerably less than at present. The quantities chilled during the past two years and the estimated target for this year are as follows :—

—		1945-46.	1946-47.	Estimated, 1947-48.
		Dozen.	Dozen.	Dozen.
Auckland	125,060	108,220	100,000	
Wanganui	49,230	27,510	40,000	
Wellington	32,400	32,990	25,000	
Christchurch	47,250	36,270	40,000	
	253,940	204,990	205,000	