

TABLE 4.—APPLE AND PEAR AVERAGES

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	Estimated, 1947.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Assembly	0 2.15	0 1.98	0 3.68	0 3.96	0 4.17	0 3.70	0 3.80	0 3.75
Freight and cartage ..	0 11.89	1 3.91	1 3.03	1 4.48	1 2.42	1 3.07	1 2.32	1 2.61
Wharfage	0 1.63	0 1.16	0 0.75	0 1.27	0 0.63	0 0.89	0 1.25	0 1.47
Cool storage	0 9.80	0 7.59	0 7.90	0 8.12	0 8.10	0 7.99	0 9.12	0 11.36
Repacking and sorting ..	..	0 0.64	0 0.15	0 0.10	0 0.01	0 0.09	0 0.01	..
Sundries	0 5.05	0 3.26	0 3.75	0 2.47	0 2.35	0 2.78	0 3.09	0 4.39
	2 6.52	2 6.54	2 7.26	2 8.40	2 5.68	2 6.52	2 7.59	2 11.58
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total	307,815	337,130	274,415	306,953	319,587	287,178	336,436	228,850
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Net market return ..	7 7.02	4 5.43	6 4.44	7 8.57	8 9.23	8 8.54	8 10.73	10 4.28
Less consolidated charge	2 6.52	2 6.54	2 7.26	2 8.40	2 5.68	2 6.52	2 7.59	2 11.58
	5 0.50	1 10.89	3 9.18	5 0.17	6 3.55	6 2.02	6 3.14	7 4.70
Plus Government sub- sidy, less profit*	0 0.23	3 5.76	1 5.82	1 1.73	1 1.38	1 3.30	1 1.54	1 11.34
Payment to growers ..	5 0.27	5 4.65	5 3.00	6 1.90	7 4.93	7 5.32	7 4.68	9 4.04
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Total payment to growers	607,674	742,335	544,567	672,296	957,755	839,321	987,142	720,871
Crop	2,420,018	2,648,982	2,107,113	2,261,085	2,583,978	2,258,420	2,551,383	1,543,864

* Export, 1940 = 587,504 cases; export, 1946 = 281,969 cases.

HONEY SECTION

The production during the last season was a fair one over the whole of New Zealand, but the quantity forwarded to the Division on the voluntary basis was the lowest on record.

Contributing factors to account for this are that sugar is still rationed and other sweets and spreads are still short on the market. The public demand for honey, particularly in the cities, has been far greater than the supplies available, producers having had no difficulty in selling direct to the consuming public.

This method of sale has given the producer an outlet for honey and a higher return than if he forwarded his honey to the Honey Section of the Division.

The announcement that the Division would pay up to 10½d. *pro rata*, using the current year's seals revenue to make up the difference between 7½d. and 10½d., was made too late in the season, as many beekeepers had made their commitments for sale and for the purchase of packing-material. The seals collected amounted only to £3,427 2s. 11d. It would therefore appear that a large quantity of honey has been sold free of levy.

The honey handled by the Section during the period under review was 51 tons, the average grade being 93.616 points. The payment to producers was 7d. per pound *pro rata*, whilst a further bonus of £1,654 17s. 11d. was paid, this working out at 3½d. per pound *pro rata*.

This small quantity of honey made it impossible for a fair distribution to the retail trade, and sales were therefore restricted to hospitals, Navy, overseas shipping, and the balance was packed for shipment to England.

The sales for the season were :—

	Tons.
Hospitals	20½
Navy and overseas shipping	2¼
Essential manufacture, &c.	6¾
England (held for shipment)	30

59½

The additional 8 tons distributed was honey carried over from the previous year.

It was also found necessary to import 56 tons for tobacco-manufacturers—namely, W. D. and H. O. Wills; Godfrey Phillips, Ltd.; and the Nelson Tobacco Co.