

Summary of Cargo shipped by Undermentioned Subsidised Steamers to South African Ports.—
continued.

Steamer.	Sacks Oats.	Sacks Cocksfoot.	Sacks Peas.	Sacks Barley.	Sacks Rye Corn.	Sacks Chaff.	Sacks Mangolds.	Bales Hay.	Bales Straw.	Sacks Flour.	Sundries Cases. *
Moravshire	5,043	..	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	580	110
Banffshire	5,893	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	374
Nairnshire†	6,900	..	3,404	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	282
Ayrshire	12,566	..	151	..	..	..	..	..	..	640	1,926
Essex	3,382	..	22	849	19	..	..	..	..	..	22
Haversham Grange ..	1,119	63	..	372	142	4,907	388	3,405	1,127	..	42
Kent	1,689	250	10	284	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

* "Sundries" includes linseed, grass-seed, molasses, pigs, veal, sides pork, oatmeal, pollard, and fish.

† The s.s. "Nairnshire" took a shipment of 10,900 superficial feet timber for Durban.

WEST-COAST-OF-ENGLAND SHIPMENTS.

I am glad to report that the steamers trading between the colony and the west-coast ports of the United Kingdom under contract with the Government, are leaving the colony with large representative cargoes of New Zealand produce—in fact, the latest sailings have more than fulfilled the most sanguine expectations, the agents being in the happy position to inform me that they have regularly despatched full ships. Frozen-meat shippers particularly are using the service not only on account of saving rail and carriage charges by shipping *via* London, but because the meat arrives in so much better condition, having only a minimum amount of handling.

I attach particulars of cargoes shipped during the last twelve months. It will be observed that the meat shipped in several boats averages about 90,000 carcasses per steamer. The first seven steamers on the list called at South African ports under Government subsidy.

The large cargoes being carried have brought about competition in this service, and in June last the New Zealand Shipping Company and the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company advertised that they were initiating a service on joint account. They announced that they were despatching the "Waiwera" in June and the "Wakanui" in July, and other steamers at regular intervals. These facts show that the service is a complete success, and one which is proving very beneficial to producers and shippers. The manifest of the "Waiwera" is included in the schedule attached:—

Shipments by Direct Service to West Coast of England Ports.

Steamer.	Carcasses Mutton.	Carcasses Lamb.	Crates Rabbits.	Boxes Beef.	Grain and Flour.	Boxes Butter.	Cases Cheese.	Bales Wool.	Super. Feet Timber.	Sundry Produce. *
Morayshire†	732	47,526	66	816	580	..	..	..	..	677
Banffshire†	1,337	24,730	15,724	553	6,536	..	..	..	165,080	1,295
Nairnshire†	4,722	26,581	15,154	2,063	7,970	..	..	..	10,900	5,296
Ayrshire†	4,253	3,984	8,755	1,897	10,898	..	..	..	..	2,627
Essex†	4,630	3,350	9,165	640	400	..	..	..	164,973	6,767
Haversham Grange†	10	210	2,484	632	150	..	..	..	51,386	5,622
Kent†	..	450	8,651	..	..	..	..	..	..	437
Devon†	..	..	200	4,146	..	11,432	223	..	50,061	3,666
Morayshire†	..	1,500	801	3,304	9,547	11,056	2,077	2,346	..	2,016
Somerset†	4,698	74,294	..	3,459	8,660	4,660	386	4,261	76,424	4,948
Ayrshire†	7,249	84,882	..	7,939	12,611	3,457	792	1,880	53,180	9,042
Essex†	15,139	99,550	..	7,170	9,312	2,194	397	374	164,793	10,448
Dorset†	29,012	84,579	1,125	5,692	626	2,723	..	1,611	64,358	14,483
Drayton Grange†	23,122	49,840	5,072	4,670	4,786	1,483	..	2,446	152,726	9,639
Fifehire†	20,749	38,578	8,050	1,900	447	..	..	1,365	..	2,821
Oswestry Grange†	12,576	20,106	12,640	3,949	3,130	..	..	976	14,206	5,748
Waiwera§	5,782	9,034	..	8,899	..	..	..	315	..	12,040

* This column includes poultry, tinned meats, bran, pollard, grass-seed, hemp, tow, kauri-gum, and general merchandise.

† These steamers called at South Africa, *via* Fremantle, under subsidy to New Zealand Government.

‡ These steamers sailed direct for west coast of England ports.

§ Despatched by the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company (Limited).

TRADE WITH THE EAST.

As direct communication has been re-established between Australia and the East, I wish again to draw attention to the markets of Japan, China, and Manila.

Reference to the *Shipping Gazette*, in which authorised copies of Australian manifests are published, discloses the fact that heavy shipments of produce are being forwarded and carried by six different steamship lines to the East. Now that hostilities are ended, trade is increasing rapidly, and, in my opinion, an effort should be made to extend our trade relations in Asiatic countries. That a portion of the trade offering can be secured for New Zealand I have no doubt, and, further, I think it advisable to go into the matter of a direct service and try to include the main ports of Cochin- and Indo-China in the itinerary, the latter countries being large buyers of tinned produce, including meats, vegetables, and fruits.

I believe the trade with China is capable of great expansion. Australia and New Zealand exported produce to the value of £72,166 10s. in 1904. Japan is now making great strides in the mercantile world, and to explain this I would point out that in 1903 the imports from Australia totalled £119,991 12s.,