

use it as a substitute for cows' milk—which is exceedingly doubtful—a great quantity of the real article would be liberated for the manufacture of butter and cheese. It might be added that this synthetic milk is not suitable for the manufacture of butter, although it is claimed that it can be used for the manufacture of cheese.

FRUIT.

There is nothing additional to report in connection with New Zealand fruit, as no further shipments have come to hand, and already my impressions have been given of what I have seen here. A report has been submitted of the investigations made by me in South America during a brief visit there, when I stated that an excellent market existed for our fruit.

Dealing with the general prospects of the fruit trade in this country as applying to New Zealand, I am of opinion that an excellent opening exists here, if only intelligent attention is bestowed on the selection of commercial varieties of fruit adapted to our soils, and care is taken in grading, packing, and shipping to this market. When one realizes the position occupied in this market by countries no better circumstanced than we are—indeed, in some respects not so good—and as we know that vast areas of New Zealand are admirably adapted to the growth of fruit, and some parts are not adapted to other purposes—one feels that a forward movement should without delay be made to develop what will be of such enormous importance to our Dominion, and will furnish a profitable and pleasant occupation to many who wish to escape from city life and who may not be adapted to other forms of country occupation. One cannot help being struck with the very beautiful fruit (apples, &c.) that is displayed in shops at this season of the year. It is to be regretted that New Zealand fruit is not shown on a parity with the other less-favoured countries. The question of markets outside London might be dealt with, but I will content myself with giving one example, which is that Cleopatra apples from Victoria realized at Hamburg recently from 20s. 6d. to 23s. per case. The fruit went direct to Hamburg, and was not transhipped in London.

I might here mention that apples are subject to a Customs duty equalling, roughly, 5½d. per 40 lb. case on importation into Germany.

KAURI-GUM.

Imports of Kauri-gum into the United Kingdom.

	Quantity (cwt.).				
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Totals	137,512	104,106	165,702	155,194	132,315
	Value.				
Totals	£480,795	£439,972	£777,974	£637,605	£556,940

Where the gum goes to—

Exports of Kauri-gum from the United Kingdom.

	Quantity (cwt.).				
To—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Russia	3,894	2,083	2,904	5,279	6,260
Germany	23,280	11,646	13,048	11,023	14,912
Netherlands	2,996	1,137	553	1,496	2,365
Belgium	1,022	1,081	63	122	1,211
France	1,663	926	1,231	1,075	564
U.S.A.	92,954	58,797	119,722	91,229	70,373
Other foreign countries	2,773	2,529	1,916	1,842	2,679
New Zealand	248	45	343	112	2
Canada	1,464	698	915	381	317
Other British possessions	3	...	...	...	...
Totals	130,297	78,942	140,695	112,559	98,683
	Value.				
Totals	£476,905	£354,434	£721,743	£524,148	£484,658

From this table it will be seen that of the total exports, roughly about 72 per cent. go to the United States. Germany takes about 14 per cent., Russia coming next with, say, 6½ per cent. The Netherlands, France, and Canada together take about 4½ per cent., and the remaining 3 per cent. goes to other foreign countries. The figures for 1912 are not yet available.

The following statement, showing the quantity of New Zealand direct imports retained in the United Kingdom for the years stated, is interesting:—

	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Imports of kauri-gum from New Zealand (cwt.)	136,182	98,040	163,469	154,785	128,654
Quantity retained in the United Kingdom (cwt.)	6,024	21,112	24,583	42,832	33,561