

wools showed the effect of the dry season, the earlier wools from the Canterbury Plains being extremely earthy, with considerable waste. The total quantity sold at local auction sales this season to date is 315,000 bales, and there is a further quantity of approximately 25,000 bales awaiting sale in the various centres of the Dominion.

The ruling prices at the Dominion auction sales for the past season and the four preceding seasons are as follows:—

	1912. January.	1913. January.	1914. January.	1915. January.	1916. January.
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Superior merino combings ..	11½-13½	13-14	12-14½	12-13	15-17¼
Medium to good merino ..	9-11	10½-11½	9¾-11½	9½-10½	12½-14½
Inferior merino ..	7¼-8½	9-9½	8½-9½	7¾-8¼	11-12
Superior half-bred ..	11½-13¼	13-14¾	12-14	13¼-14¾	18½-21
Medium to good half-bred ..	9-10¾	10½-12¾	9¾-12	11½-13	16½-18¼
Inferior half-bred ..	7¾-8½	10-11	9-10	9-10½	13½-15½
Superior crossbred ..	10¼-11¾	12-13¼	10½-12	12½-14	18-19¾
Medium to good crossbred ..	8-10	10¼-11½	9-11	11½-13	16-17¾
Inferior crossbred ..	6½-7¾	8½-9½	7¾-9	9-10¼	12½-15¼
Lincoln and Leicester ..	7½-10	10-11½	8¾-10½	11-12¾	15-17½
Lambs, good ..	9½-11	11½-12½	11-13	13-14	16-18¾
Lambs, medium ..	7½-9½	9¼-10½	9-10¾	11½-12½	13-15½

The exports of wool during the past seasons ending 31st September were as under:—

Year.	Quantity. lb.	Value. £
1908	163,934,462	5,716,373
1909	187,619,181	5,914,695
1910	194,472,934	7,954,527
1911	184,854,145	7,152,682
1912	189,570,691	7,011,541
1913	195,353,533	8,349,882
1914	196,499,896	8,167,279
1915	208,908,118	10,425,172

FAT STOCK.

The meat-prices fixed in March, 1915, for purchase on behalf of the Imperial Government are still in force, and these have largely had the effect of controlling the fat-stock market. Exceptionally high prices have been ruling throughout the Dominion. Market reports for March show that bullocks ranged from £12 to £20, wethers from 25s. to 41s., hoggets from 17s. to 28s., and lambs from 20s. 6d. to 30s. 6d.

HIDES, SHEEP-SKINS, AND TALLOW.

Hides.

The present values of sound ox-hides are 11½d. per pound and cow-hides 10¼d. per pound, the average prices for the year being 11d. for ox and 10¾d. for cow hides. Early in February, owing to an embargo having been placed on the export of all ox and cow hides over 45 lb., the heavier weights immediately fell to 10d. and 9d. respectively, the lighter weights, however, continuing to maintain their former prices.

Sheep-skins.

Notwithstanding the partial embargo on sheep-skins, values have been fairly well maintained: this is attributable to some extent to the increased value of pelts. Values of combing crossbred skins, per pound, are,—

	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.
Medium crossbred ..	8½d.	8¾d.	11d.-11½d.	10¼d.-10¾d.
Fine crossbred ..	9d.	9d.	11d.-11½d.	10½d.-11¼d.
Coarse crossbred ..	8¼d.	8½d.	10½d.-11¼d.	9¾d.-10½d.

Tallow.

Tallow has continued to advance steadily during the past twelve months, present prices being: Prime mutton, 45s. per hundredweight; prime beef, 44s.; good mixed, 40s