

attended by representatives of freezing companies, shipping companies, the Board of Agriculture, buyers, and others. A schedule of prices, a system of grading, and a general "working arrangement" were agreed upon and subscribed to by the interested parties. The schedule of prices then agreed to was adhered to until the 20th October, 1916, when the rates were revised. The two sets of rates hereafter follow for purposes of comparison :—

Description.	Prices operating from 20th October, 1916.	Prices operating from 3rd March, 1915, to 19th October, 1916.
	Per lb. d.	Per lb. d.
Wethers, first quality, 72 lb. and under	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂
„ „ over 72 lb. and up to 85 lb.	5 ¹ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₄
„ „ „ 85 lb. and up to 98 lb. (subject to special approval by Inspector)	4 ⁷ / ₈	4
„ second quality	5 ¹ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₄
Ewes, first quality, 72 lb. and under	4 ⁷ / ₈	4
„ „ over 72 lb. and up to 85 lb.	4 ⁵ / ₈	3 ³ / ₄
„ second quality	4 ⁵ / ₈	3 ³ / ₄
Lamb, specially prime and Canterbury quality, 42 lb. and under ..	6 ¹ / ₂	5 ³ / ₈
„ first quality, 42 lb. and under	6 ³ / ₈	5 ¹ / ₂
„ „ over 42 lb.	6 ¹ / ₈	5 ¹ / ₄
„ second quality	6 ¹ / ₈	5 ¹ / ₄
Beef, prime ox	5	4 ³ / ₄
„ second and heifer	4 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂
„ boning in quarters	4 ¹ / ₄	4
„ cow, prime	4 ³ / ₄	4 ¹ / ₂
„ „ second	4 ¹ / ₄	4
„ boneless	5 ¹ / ₄	5
Mutton, legs	6 ³ / ₈	5 ¹ / ₂
„ shoulders	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂
„ loins	5 ³ / ₈	4 ¹ / ₂
„ haunches	..	5

A condition applying to the prices fixed on the 20th October, 1916, was that they should operate for at least three months after the termination of the war, and that the storage rate previously paid should be reduced by 25 per cent. as from the 1st November, 1916.

The total quantities of meat purchased from the 3rd March, 1915, to the 31st March, 1917, were,—

Beef (quarters)	1,313,748
Mutton (carcases)	5,279,408
Lamb (carcases)	6,928,023
Other meat (in 60 lb. carcasses)	198,611

The total payments for meat to the 31st March amounted to £15,800,701, distributed as under :—

	£	£
Auckland	1,399,312	
Poverty Bay	1,599,494	
Hawke's Bay	1,584,561	
Taranaki	641,255	
Wellington	4,612,552	
North Island		9,837,174
Marlborough	120,242	
Nelson	71,072	
Canterbury	3,455,022	
Otago	1,193,913	
Southland	1,123,278	
South Island		5,963,527
		£15,800,701