

The respective quantities of meat shipped from each port from the 3rd March, 1915, to the 31st March, 1917, are set out in the following table :—

Port of Shipment.	1914-15 Season.			1915-16 Season.			31st March, 1917.			Totals		
	Beef.	Mutton.	Lamb.	Beef.	Mutton.	Lamb.	Beef.	Mutton.	Lamb.	Beef.	Mutton.	Lamb.
	Quarters.	Carcases.	Carcases.	Quarters.	Carcases.	Carcases.	Quarters.	Carcases.	Carcases.	Quarters.	Carcases.	Carcases.
Whangarei ..	23,694	..	..	41,457	11,323	3,222	11,076	3,271	..	76,227	14,594	3,222
Auckland ..	52,533	41,264	74,983	186,587	42,975	108,104	43,520	10,824	8,445	282,640	95,063	191,532
Tokomaru Bay ..	6,463	58,460	41,897	8,950	107,846	67,526	2,927	16,223	..	18,340	182,529	109,423
Gisborne ..	25,024	220,038	101,073	62,261	325,172	165,752	6,987	69,456	10,255	94,272	614,666	277,080
Napier ..	34,802	208,775	151,982	64,802	377,599	301,282	11,453	130,630	25,463	111,057	717,004	478,727
Waitara ..	46,612	49,485	28,250	77,680	54,929	44,126	14,087	13,918	13,389	138,379	118,332	85,765
New Plymouth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,457	6,199	2,180	1,457	6,199	2,180
Wanganui ..	17,812	95,713	38,012	26,783	88,569	67,766	23,353	38,532	17,479	67,948	222,814	123,257
Wellington ..	58,979	610,073	411,351	166,931	734,540	782,383	47,602	256,669	319,596	273,512	1,601,282	1,513,330
Total, North Island	265,919	1,283,808	847,548	635,451	1,742,953	1,540,161	162,462	545,722	396,807	1,063,832	3,572,483	2,784,516
Nelson ..	521	10,312	20,549	4,763	16,623	21,563	2,157	2,544	..	7,441	29,479	42,112
Pictou ..	..	22,410	31,035	..	27,650	42,392	..	10,809	..	..	60,869	73,427
Lyttelton ..	11,128	244,750	772,152	38,162	274,884	770,312	18,711	135,297	207,059	68,001	654,931	1,749,523
Timaru ..	2,618	153,374	623,925	7,624	102,373	334,357	6,903	89,485	192,507	17,145	345,232	1,150,789
Oamaru ..	..	29,871	97,868	..	10,095	32,402	..	9,336	2,732	..	49,302	133,002
Dunedin ..	11,876	85,884	214,387	22,246	102,716	189,680	6,022	54,132	54,900	40,144	242,732	458,967
Bluff ..	45,673	156,552	282,044	61,634	144,396	217,847	9,878	23,432	35,796	117,185	324,380	535,687
Total, South Island	71,816	703,153	2,041,960	134,429	678,737	1,608,553	43,671	325,035	492,994	249,916	1,706,925	4,143,507
Grand totals	337,735	1,986,961	2,889,508	769,880	2,421,690	3,148,714	206,133	870,757	889,801	1,313,748	5,279,408	6,928,023

The quantities of meat which had either arrived at destination or were afloat as on the 31st March were as follows :—

Beef (quarters)	..	..	..	1,268,627
Mutton (carcases)	..	..	..	5,140,964
Lamb (carcases)	..	..	..	6,809,934

The balance is accounted for by quantities of meat then on board steamers loading in New Zealand and losses in the steamers "Clan MacTavish" and "Rotorua."

The important work of inspection, grading, and checking weights, together with the certification of statements furnished with regularity by the freezing companies relating to quantities of meat on hand, killings, &c., is carried out by the Live-stock Division of the Department of Agriculture.

System of Payment for Meat.

The system of payment for the meat adopted at the outset has been adhered to, and has proved satisfactory. The method adopted is for consignors to forward shipping documents and invoices to the Department of Imperial Government Supplies and draw on Wellington, which by an arrangement made with the banks in the Dominion they are able to do without any expense. In the case of freezing companies freezing on account of clients, however, it has been arranged that the company concerned shall forward all documents direct to the Department in Wellington, together with a statement showing to whom payment is desired to be made for specified shipments. Cheques are thereupon posted directly to the clients named, and are made payable free of exchange. This method obviates the necessity for the freezing company furnishing more than one set of documents, and prevents the delay which would arise if a set of documents had to be prepared and forwarded to individual clients and subsequently submitted to the Department in Wellington for settlement.

Payment is made for shipments by the Department usually within twenty-four hours of the receipt of documents.

The funds required for the purchases are provided by the Imperial Government through the High Commissioner, to whom application is made by the