

Secretary to the Treasury, acting on the advice of the estimated amounts required furnished by the Department of Imperial Supplies.

In the early history of the Department a special telegraph code was devised for communicating to the High Commissioner detailed particulars of shipments, which has resulted in a saving of many hundreds of pounds per annum.

Particulars of Frozen Meat in Store and of Shipments made (60 lb. Carcases).

In store on—				1915-16.	1916-17.
April	30	...	...	1,792,362	2,304,258
May	31	...	...	2,048,454	2,642,362
June	30	...	...	2,165,342	2,480,846
July	31	...	...	1,865,283	1,892,504
August	31	...	...	1,410,167	1,396,540
September	30	...	...	665,992	816,933
October	31	...	...	199,936	367,975
November	30	...	...	140,836	161,311
December	31	...	...	597,817	451,361
January	31	...	...	1,093,300	1,137,438
February	28	...	...	1,575,336	1,901,085
March	31	...	...	2,152,250	2,409,541
Shipments during—				1915-16.	1916-17.
April	...	...	...	498,971	540,204
May	...	...	...	389,223	500,097
June	...	...	...	302,293	605,890
July	...	...	...	761,641	740,845
August	...	...	...	602,647	555,630
September	...	...	...	795,766	609,362
October	...	...	...	474,055	465,983
November	...	...	...	282,450	321,497
December	...	...	...	241,734	235,316
January	...	...	...	514,036	440,168
February	...	...	...	498,964	272,910
March	...	...	...	542,586	800,539
				5,904,366	6,088,441

The foregoing table will doubtless be found interesting as indicating that the freezing-works were virtually clear of meat in November, 1916, and in the same month of 1915, whilst the maximum quantity of meat in store during last year was reached in May, 1916—2,642,362 60 lb. carcasses—as compared with a maximum of 2,165,342 60 lb. carcasses in June of the previous year (1915). The present indications are that the former quantity will be considerably exceeded during the present season, attributable in the main to a lack of sufficient shipping facilities, and also in a degree to the increase in the number of freezing-works. It will also be seen from the “Table of Shipments” that, taking the periods ending 31st March, 1916 and 1917, that the quantity of meat shipped during the latter twelve months only exceeded the former by 184,075 carcasses.

Augmentation of Freezing Facilities.

Synchronizing with the expansion of the Department of Imperial Government Supplies has been the increase in the number of freezing-works in the Dominion and large additions to their storage-capacity. Ten new freezing-works have been erected, of which eight are in the North Island and two in the South Island, while one is in course of erection at Whakatane and one at Kakariki, both in the North Island. There are now forty-one freezing-works in operation in the Dominion. The storage-capacity of the works has been increased within the period under review from accommodation for 2,200,000 carcasses of 60 lb. to 4,400,000 carcasses.