

TELEGRAM from the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF NEW ZEALAND to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, dated 14th September, 1917.

Following from Prime Minister: As the butter season in New Zealand has commenced and production is fast proceeding it is of the utmost importance that Government of New Zealand should be informed with least possible delay of the intentions of Imperial Government with regard to proposals contained in my telegram of 4th September. The present uncertainty is having very disturbing effect on business community, embracing banks, merchants, and producers. Should be extremely grateful for early reply.—LIVERPOOL.

TELEGRAM from the Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND, dated 14th September, 1917.

Butter: Following telegram has been forwarded by Governor-General to the Secretary of State for the Colonies: "Owing to the fact that the butter season in New Zealand has commenced and that production is fast proceeding it is of the utmost importance that the New Zealand Government should be informed with as little delay as possible as to the intentions of the Imperial Government with respect to the proposals set out in my telegram of the 4th instant. The present uncertainty as to what is going to be done is having a very disturbing effect on the business community, embracing banks, merchants, and producers. Should be extremely grateful for an early reply."

TELEGRAM from the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND to the Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER, dated 17th September, 1917.

With reference to my telegram, 11th July, on subject of shipment of butter, have continued to make representations to Board of Trade with a view to obtaining authority for as large shipments as possible, and have now received reply to effect that it has been arranged to ship seventy thousand boxes in September and October steamers.—MACKENZIE.

TELEGRAM from the Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND, dated 25th September, 1917.

Butter: With reference to my telegrams of 4th September and 14th September, position is daily becoming most serious, and Government is being placed in most unfortunate position owing to the absence of any information regarding intentions of Imperial authorities. Please expedite matters as much as possible, and telegraph reply with least possible delay as to what position really is.

TELEGRAM from the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND to the Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER, dated 28th September, 1917.

Interviewed Food Controller. He has purchased Australian butter output at 1s. 4d. per pound. Consider it is probable that offer will be made for New Zealand output at a price on parity with Australian, and have intimated to Food Controller that if such offer made it would probably be favourably considered New Zealand. Have further asked that a condition of agreement should be that the Imperial Government assumes ownership of butter on same terms as those now ruling for cheese.—MACKENZIE.

TELEGRAM from the Right Hon. the PRIME MINISTER to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NEW ZEALAND, dated 1st October, 1917.

With reference to your telegram 28th September, represent to Food Controller superiority of New Zealand butter over Australian. Producers therefore unlikely to be satisfied with 1s. 4d. per pound. Export value New Zealand butter at present not less than 1s. 6d. Please expedite matters, as American buyers anxious to operate, and I am holding them off. New season's butter now coming forward in large quantities. Secondly: It is also most urgent that information should be received regarding Food Controller's intentions *re* price of cheese. Production proceeding apace, and owing to present uncertainty producers and others are being seriously hampered in financial arrangements. Thirdly: Telegraphic advice received here private source that Imperial Government bidding Argentine exporters 170s. f.o.b. Argentine season's exportable surplus. Telegraph whether correct and all information available on the subject.

TELEGRAM from the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF NEW ZEALAND, dated 3rd October, 1917.

With reference to your telegram of 4th September, Food Controller is prepared to buy exportable surplus New Zealand butter for period September, 1917, to June, 1918, inclusive, not exceeding 15,000 (fifteen thousand) tons at 155s. per hundredweight f.o.b. first grade, and 1s. less for each point down. Payment against bill(s) of lading with interest at 6 per cent. per annum after fourteen days in store, or at Food Controller's option payment against store warrants in full or on account. At any date after fourteen days in store interest to cease on account so paid. All storage charges for sellers' account and all risks until delivery f.o.b. to be sellers'.

Identical offer being made to Government of Commonwealth of Australia except that price 4s. higher in case of New Zealand owing to slightly better quality.—LONG.