

LOSS OF SHIPS.

The losses of insulated tonnage since the commencement of the present war represented in terms of 60 lb. carcasses of meat, are as follows :—

Steamer.	Capacity: 60 lb. Carcasses.
S.s. "Kaipara"	96,500
S.s. "Otaki"	95,000
S.s. "Rotorua"	99,000
S.s. "Tongariro"	83,500
S.s. "Rangatira"	97,800
S.s. "Tokomaru"	82,000
S.s. "Middlesex"	102,000
S.s. "Port Nicholson"	113,000
S.s. "Port Adelaide"	113,000
S.s. "Marere"	86,000
S.s. "Clan MacTavish"	48,000
S.s. "Turakina"	120,000
S.s. "Somerset"	95,000
S.s. "Roscommon"	100,000
S.s. "Cumberland"	123,000
S.s. "Delphic"	93,000
S.s. "Limerick"	100,000
S.s. "Port Kembla"	65,000
S.s. "Hurunui"	125,000
	1,836,800

In my report for the previous year the s.s. "Westmoreland" was included in the foregoing list, but it has since been ascertained that this vessel, although suffering as the result of enemy action, was subsequently repaired, and re-entered the Australasian trade.

Of the vessels mentioned in the above list only the s.s. "Rotorua," "Clan MacTavish," and "Hurunui" carried produce consigned to the Imperial Government, and the values of the cargo lost in each of these steamers were as follows :—

	"Rotorua."	"Clan MacTavish."	"Hurunui."
	£	£	£
Meat	89,991	47,558	86,738
Wool	221,625	..	..
Cheese	102,318	..	302,069
Butter	..	..	194,953
Scheelite	1,641	..	2,085
Canned rabbits	..	..	7,953
Frozen rabbits	..	..	4,759
	£415,575	£47,558	£598,557

The quantities of meat, cheese, and butter in store on the 31st March, 1916, 1917, 1918, and 1919, are given below, and show clearly the increase due to the shortage of shipping referred to above :—

Date.	Frozen Meat (60lb. Carcasses).	Cheese (Crates).	Butter (Boxes).
31st March, 1916	2,152,250	73,927	87,678
31st March, 1917	2,409,541	185,417	224,506
31st March, 1918	3,398,364	363,790	350,315
31st March, 1919	6,482,529	474,754	93,729

The decrease in the number of boxes of butter held on the 31st March, 1919, was due to the exceptionally heavy shipments made during the months of February and March by direction of the Imperial Government.