

BUTTER EQUALISATION FUND, 1920-21 SEASON.

Under the authority of section 12 of the Appropriation Act, 1920, a payment was made to manufacturers in respect of creamery butter sold for household consumption at prices fixed by Order in Council, in order to equalise returns of such factories with the returns of exporting factories. The maximum rate was fixed at 6d. per pound from the 19th October, 1920, up to the date on which the Imperial Government contract for the purchase of butter terminated—viz., 31st March, 1921.

On the 1st April, 1921, the rate was reduced to 3d. per pound, and again to 2d. per pound on the 17th April, 1921. The latter rate was payable in respect of creamery butter sold and distributed to retailers or consumers up to the 31st August, 1921. Each of the foregoing rates was subject to a deduction in the event of, and to the extent of, the factories' selling-price exceeding the price of 1s. 11½d. per pound bulk in boxes at factory-door, or its equivalent.

Interim payments were made to factories based on monthly returns received from them, and the final payment was made by the Department upon the receipt of each factory's return duly audited by one of the Department's travelling auditors.

The total payments made out of the fund for the fifteen months ended 30th June, 1922, amounted to £245,099 0s. 6d.

WOOL.

The wool held in New Zealand on account of the Imperial Government at the 31st March, 1921, amounted to 314,903 bales. Upon the market improving the shipment of these stocks was resumed at the end of November last, and during the seven months to the 30th June, 1922, 260,008 bales were shipped, leaving a balance of 54,895 bales, which it is estimated will be all shipped by the end of August, 1922.

The following table shows the classes of wool contained in the various shipments:—

Ship.	Greasy.	Station-scoured.	Station-Slipes.	Government-scoured.	Government-Slipes.	Freezing Companies' Slipes.	Total.	Date of Shipment.	Destination.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.		
Mahia ..	8,340	41	..	283	..	123	8,787	16/12/21	London.
Matakana ..	4,970	..	59	2,230	2,809	..	10,068	17/12/21	Hull.
Australia ..	15,327	457	..	5,127	2,027	6,154	29,092	21/12/21	Liverpool.
Port Kembla ..	4,316	296	104	74	1,047	2,874	8,711	15/1/22	London.
Maimoa ..	1,208	47	..	..	..	421	1,676	19/1/22	"
Ionic ..	2,637	500	..	1,597	422	..	5,156	8/1/22	"
Otarama ..	8,763	59	..	..	..	..	8,822	14/1/22	Liverpool.
Port Darwin ..	3,424	193	102	..	..	3,907	7,626	21/1/22	Hull.
Tresithney ..	2,001	8	..	1,173	..	..	3,182	21/2/22	Liverpool.
Tairoa ..	2,052	477	38	4,279	..	2,274	9,120	9/2/22	Hull.
Westmeath ..	1,774	..	..	1,842	..	..	3,616	9/2/22	Manchester.
Kaikoura ..	2,964	..	..	..	573	3,510	7,047	17/2/22	"
Mahana ..	2,273	..	..	968	236	..	3,477	1/2/22	Hull.
Port Albany ..	49	..	..	..	..	..	49	11/2/22	London.
Somerset ..	1,607	..	..	..	..	892	2,499	31/3/22	Manchester.
Port Curtis ..	7,407	3	..	..	1,042	31	8,483	10/3/22	London.
Corinthic ..	3,476	..	..	..	..	..	3,476	11/4/22	"
Port Bowen ..	..	..	45	207	..	1,461	1,713	5/4/22	"
Treloske ..	..	..	..	8,646	3,184	..	11,830	31/3/22	Manchester.
Waiwera ..	657	..	3	..	..	..	660	31/3/22	London.
Dorset ..	920	..	..	..	..	..	920	9/5/22	"
Port Adelaide ..	1,088	..	..	..	..	..	1,088	31/3/22	"
Tainui ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,964	1,964	10/5/22	"
Zealandic ..	4,333	9	1	..	..	990	5,333	29/4/22	"
Port Pirie ..	3,825	309	..	..	..	..	4,134	26/5/22	"
City of Winchester ..	6,063	..	9	..	457	3,910	10,439	25/5/22	"
Waimana ..	2,848	..	..	728	..	880	4,456	20/5/22	Hull.
Port Melbourne ..	3,515	1	48	..	..	..	3,564	11/5/22	London.
Errol ..	440	..	..	2,359	642	..	3,441	6/5/22	Manchester.
Tasmania ..	13,577	1	..	4,330	1,390	..	19,298	29/6/22	"
Makalla ..	10,469	25	..	1,531	..	950	12,975	1/6/22	London.
Port Denison ..	1,611	..	..	277	..	688	2,576	18/5/22	"
Devon ..	412	..	..	..	..	..	412	6/6/22	Manchester.
Ionic ..	1,017	..	..	1,975	..	712	3,704	10/6/22	London.
Matakana ..	7,816	6	..	..	..	143	7,965	16/6/22	"
Port Victor ..	4,279	29	..	..	..	..	4,308	16/6/22	"
Mahia ..	4,723	3	1	1,597	680	1,815	8,819	27/5/22	Hull.
Huntingdon ..	19,719	40	18	5,696	1,865	2,184	29,522	21/6/22	London.
Totals ..	159,900	2,504	428	44,919	16,374	35,883	260,008	..	..