

The balance of 54,895 bales held awaiting shipment at 30th June, 1922, comprised the following qualities :—

	Greasy.	Station-scoured.	Station Slupe.	Government-scoured.	Government Slupe.	Freezer Slupe.	Total.
	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.
Merino ..	8	..	1	2	17	..	28
Halfbred 50/56's to 58's ..	1,208	29	10	4	46	444	1,741
Fine crossbred 46/48's to 50's ..	5,914	32	13	587	1,001	4,470	12,017
Medium crossbred 40/44's to 46's	28,011	28	3	4,595	2,627	2,415	37,679
Coarse crossbred 36's to 40's ..	1,883	1	9	69	742	726	3,430
Grand totals ..	37,024	90	36	5,257	4,433	8,055	54,895

NEW ZEALAND WOOL COMMITTEE.

As the result of a recommendation by the Producers' Committee, it was decided that, in view of the state of the wool industry in 1921, it was very desirable that the woolgrowers of New Zealand should fully co-operate with the British Australian Wool Realisation Association (Limited), and the woolgrowers of Australia, in regard to fixed reserves and limitation of wool offerings.

For this purpose the Wool Industry Regulations were gazetted on the 24th June, 1921, and were administered by a Committee appointed by the Government, and known as the New Zealand Wool Committee. The Committee comprised Messrs. W. S. Bennett, O. Hawken, T. R. Lees (Chairman), A. E. Mabin, and L. A. Rutherford. This Committee, which was in constant touch with the British Australian Wool Realisation Association, prepared schedules of minimum reserve prices, issued permits for export, allocated the quantities of wool to be offered at the local sales, and handled other matters incidental to the well-being of the wool industry.

The clerical work connected with the functions of the Committee as outlined herein, together with the collection of statistics relating to the production and sales of wool, was carried out by this Department.

I quote hereunder extracts from a report made to you by the Committee, covering the period 1st October, 1921, to 31st March, 1922; where necessary the figures used have been brought up to the present date—namely, 30th June, 1922 :—

The Committee has to record a gradual rise in prices for all classes of wool during the six months, together with a very satisfactory clearance of stocks in New Zealand. The prices for medium and low crossbred wools are still below the cost of production, but the keen demand for all classes of wool, and the rapidity with which same have gone into consumption during the period under review, justifies the strong belief that producers can safely look forward to a return to payable prices in the very near future.

The system of registration under which woolbrokers, banks, and wool-exporters gave written undertakings, enforceable by bond if required, not to dispose of wool at prices below the minimum prices fixed by the Committee has been continued throughout this season, but from December onward the prices at which wool was saleable have been substantially higher than the very low fixed prices, and it will be unnecessary to continue the system next season.

The following are the sales which have been held since the 1st October, and the results :—

Date of Sale.	Centre.	Offered.	Sold.	Average Price per Bale.	Average Price per Pound.
		Bales.	Bales.	£ s. d.	d.
1921.					
October 14 ..	Wellington ..	7,167	6,969	7 2 5	4.55
„ 18 ..	Auckland ..	5,085	4,558	6 17 6	4.45
„ 20 ..	Wanganui ..	4,032	3,611	6 10 3	4.21
December 5 ..	Auckland ..	8,749	6,783	6 8 8	4.35
„ 9 ..	Wellington ..	15,491	13,433	8 3 7	4.95
„ 13 ..	Napier ..	15,966	14,097	6 15 4	4.47
„ 16 ..	Christchurch ..	20,352	18,227	9 14 11	6.92
„ 21 ..	Dunedin ..	10,904	10,302	9 17 5	6.90