

1890.
NEW ZEALAND.

FLAX AND OTHER INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE

(REPORT OF THE) ON THE DAIRY INDUSTRY, TOGETHER WITH MINUTES OF
EVIDENCE AND APPENDIX.

Brought up 9th September, 1890, and ordered to be printed.

ORDERS OF REFERENCE.

Extracts from the Journals of the House of Representatives.

WEDNESDAY, THE 23RD DAY OF JULY, 1890.

Ordered, "That a Select Committee be appointed, to consist of ten members, to consider all matters pertaining to the development of the flax and dairy produce and wine-producing industries; with power to call for persons and papers. The Committee to consist of Mr. T. Mackenzie, Mr. Valentine, Mr. Dodson, Mr. Marchant, Hon. Captain Russell, Mr. Walker, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Hamlin, Major Steward, and the mover; three to be a quorum."—(Mr. BEETHAM.)

THURSDAY, THE 31ST DAY OF JULY, 1890.

Ordered, "That it be an instruction to the Select Committee, appointed on the 23rd instant, to inquire into all matters pertaining to the development of flax and dairy produce and wine-producing industries, to add the fruit industry."—(Mr. HOBBS.)

REPORT ON THE DAIRY INDUSTRY.

THE Committee, to whom was referred the question of flax, dairy produce, and other industries, have the honour to report, with respect to dairy produce, as follows:—

1. Your Committee have much pleasure in drawing attention to the large increase in the export of dairy produce that has taken place during the last ten years, as shown in the following return:—

			Butter.	Value.	Cheese.	Value.
			Cwt.	£	cwt.	£
1880	..	...	2,717	8,350	717	1,983
1881	...	...	2,426	8,496	3,056	6,112
1882	...	...	11,264	52,088	3,553	10,130
1883	...	...	8,869	42,020	2,519	6,892
1884	...	...	15,766	66,593	10,342	25,074
1885	...	...	24,923	102,387	15,245	35,742
1886	...	...	23,175	105,537	16,429	45,657
1887	...	...	17,018	54,921	23,913	54,562
1888	...	...	29,995	118,252	36,682	78,918
1889	...	...	37,955	146,840	26,558	67,105
1890	(half-year, to June 30)		24,021	83,799	26,663	57,642

These figures show that the dairy industry is undergoing rapid development, and the expert evidence laid before your Committee proves that much of the butter and cheese now made in New Zealand is quite equal in quality to that produced in any part of the world.

2. Your Committee, however, find that the export butter-trade is in an unsatisfactory state, the causes being (a) that butter is frequently made in a faulty manner, and will not therefore keep long even under favourable conditions; (b) that butter, in every way good when originally made, is spoiled in transit through defective carrying and transshipment arrangements, or the use of unsuitable packages.

3. Your Committee find that want of knowledge of the best methods of manufacture is the principal reason for butter being badly made, and they have therefore the honour to recommend that Government should at once engage at least two experts, thoroughly qualified to impart scientific and practical instruction. They are of opinion that it would be desirable to obtain such experts from Denmark, where the industry is thoroughly understood, a knowledge of the English language on the part of such experts being, however, a necessary qualification for their appointment.

4. The formation of dairymen's associations for mutual instruction and assistance would, in the opinion of your Committee, be of very great service to the dairying industry. Such associations could confer with Government and with professional experts, and should hold periodical conferences for the advancement of the industry in the manner pursued in the United States and Canada, their funds being supplemented by grants-in-aid from the consolidated revenue, as in most