

1896.
NEW ZEALAND.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE COLONY ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1896.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

SIR,—

Department of Agriculture (Live-stock Branch),
Wellington, 10th July, 1896.

I have the honour to furnish a statement of the approximate number of sheep in the colony on the 30th April, 1896.

I have, &c.,

JOHN D. RITCHIE,

Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Hon. the Minister of Agriculture.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER of SHEEP in the Colony on the 30th April, 1896.

	Number of Sheep.		Decrease.	Increase.
	1895.	1896.		
Auckland District	846,873	847,204	...	331
Napier District	4,217,232	4,229,411	...	12,179
Wellington-West Coast District ...	3,930,541	4,032,026	...	101,485
Marlborough-Nelson District ...	906,307	892,442	13,865	...
Canterbury-Kaikoura District ...	5,559,990	5,080,625	479,365	...
Otago District	4,365,661	3,900,372	465,289	...
	19,826,604	18,982,080	958,519	113,995
	Less increase		113,995	
	Total decrease, 1896		844,524	
	Increase, North Island		113,995	
	* Decrease, South Island		958,519	

* The shortage in the South Island is partly accounted for by the excessive losses sustained through the severe weather which prevailed last winter. The excess loss over average is estimated at 700,000. There is also an increase in the export of frozen lambs of 171,209 carcasses; less decrease in mutton, 42,959 carcasses: total increase, 128,250.

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