

1898.
NEW ZEALAND.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE COLONY ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1898.

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

SIR,—
I have the honour to furnish a statement of the approximate number of sheep in the colony on the 30th April, 1898.

Department of Agriculture (Live-stock Branch),
Wellington, 20th July, 1898.
I have, &c.,
JOHN D. RITCHIE,
Chief Inspector of Stock.

The Hon. the Minister for Agriculture.

APPROXIMATE NUMBER of SHEEP in the Colony on the 30th April, 1898.

	Number of Sheep.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1897.	1898.		
Auckland	859,471	890,060	30,589	...
Napier	4,358,890	4,543,968	185,078	...
Wellington-West Coast	4,322,356	4,452,020	129,664	...
Marlborough-Nelson	932,980	935,547	2,567	...
Canterbury-Kaikoura	5,193,192	4,897,484	...	295,708
Otago	4,021,065	3,901,834	...	119,231
	19,687,954	19,620,913	347,898	414,939
	Less increase		...	347,898
	Total decrease		...	67,041
	Increase, North Island		...	345,331
	Decrease, South Island		...	412,372

The increase in the export of frozen meat for the year ending 31st March is—

Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	308,116
Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	...	477,119
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	785,235

Besides this increase, which occurs principally in the Middle Island, there has been, owing to the dry weather experienced in parts of the colony, a much larger number of old sheep boiled down—say, an increase of 200,000. Taking the above facts into consideration, the decrease in the flocks is easily accounted for.

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