

The total weight of frozen meat purchased was 293,133 tons, giving an average pay-out to freezing companies and meat-exporters of 6·42d. per pound for all descriptions of frozen meat and edible offals. The following table shows particulars of meat purchased during the twelve months ended 31st July, 1944, classified under the main descriptions of meat purchased :—

Class of Meat.						Tons.	Purchase Value (N.Z. Currency).	Average Price per Pound (N.Z. Currency).
Frozen—							£	d.
Lamb	..	..	..	..	..	157,771	11,291,673	7·67
Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	61,912	2,095,240	3·63
Beef and veal	..	..	..	..	..	45,094	1,975,155	4·69
Pig-meats	..	..	..	..	..	18,832	1,519,102	8·64
Sundries	..	..	..	..	..	9,524	687,815	7·74
Total	..	..	..	..	..	293,133	17,568,985	6·42
Preserved—								
Canned beef and mutton (including meat and vegetable ration)						14,416	1,359,374	..
Tongues, &c.						1,140	255,971	..
Total	..	..	..	..	..	15,556	1,615,345	..
Total, frozen and preserved meat						308,689	19,184,330	..

NOTE.—(1) *Meat Schedule Prices to be paid to Farmers by Freezing Companies and Meat Operators at Opening of 1944-45 Season* : For convenience of reference the following letter from the Right Hon. the Prime Minister to the Meat Board, written before publication of this report, is quoted. This letter announces the meat schedule prices to be paid to farmers by freezing companies and meat operators at the opening of the 1944-45 season, and also arrangements regarding the Meat Pool Account and the Meat Industry Stabilization Account :—

20th November, 1944.

The Chairman, N.Z. Meat Producers' Board,
Wellington.

DEAR SIR,—

MEAT SCHEDULE PRICES, 1944-45

This letter will serve to confirm my previous intimation to the members of your Board that as a result of the agreement reached between the Board and the Economic Stabilization Commission, meat schedule prices to be paid to farmers by freezing companies and meat operators at the opening of the 1944-45 season will be as follows :—

Lamb—							
Prime Down Cross and Prime Canterbury—							
23/42	..	..	..	..	..	9d.	
43/50	..	..	..	..	..	8½d.	
51/56	..	..	..	..	..	8d.	
Prime Cross Bred—							
23/42	..	..	..	..	..	8½d.	
43/50	..	..	..	..	..	8½d.	
51/56	..	..	..	..	..	7¾d.	
Seconds—							
23/42	..	..	..	..	..	8½d.	
43/50	..	..	..	..	..	7½d.	
Wethers : North Island—							
Prime—							
64/U	..	..	..	..	..	5¾d.	
65/90	..	..	..	..	..	As 64 lb. @ 5¾d.—30s. 8d.	
Seconds—							
64/U	..	..	..	..	..	5½d.	
65/72	..	..	..	..	..	As 64 lb. @ 5½d.—28s.	
Wethers : South Island—							
Prime—							
64/U	..	..	..	..	..	5½d.	
65/90	..	..	..	..	..	As 64 lb. @ 5½d.—29s. 4d.	
Seconds—							
64/U	..	..	..	..	..	5d.	
65/72	..	..	..	..	..	As 64 lb. @ 5d.—26s. 8d.	
Ewes—							
64/U	..	..	..	..	..	3½d.	
65/90	..	..	..	..	..	As 64 lb. @ 3½d.—19s. 4d.	
Quarter Beef—							
Ox—							
G.A.Q. all weights						40s. per 100 lb.	
F.A.Q. all weights						35s. per 100 lb.	
Heifer—							
G.A.Q. all weights						39s. per 100 lb.	
F.A.Q. all weights						34s. per 100 lb.	
Cow—							
G.A.Q. all weights						33s. 6d. per 100 lb.	
F.A.Q. all weights						28s. 6d. per 100 lb.	
Boner Beef—							
Ox	..	..	..	..	..	} 23s. per 100 lb.	
Bull	..	..	..	..	..
Cow	..	..	..	..	..
Heifer	..	..	..	..	..

The cost of the increases in Marketing Department purchase prices for meat necessary to enable these increased schedule prices to be paid to farmers will be debited to the Meat Industry Stabilization Account. The United Kingdom offer, as you are aware, covers export meat only, and to avoid the complexity that would arise by a two-price schedule for local and exported meat, it is necessary to base all prices on the export schedule, and to reimburse from the Meat Industry Stabilization Account the sum necessary to maintain local prices to the consumer. The amount of this compensation is estimated to be not more than £400,000 annually, and this amount will be a charge