

Minister of Marketing. It was understood that, if at any time during the current year tanners did not exercise their pre-emptive right to all or any part of the offering of ox-hides 45 lb. and over, the Committee will revert to the terms and conditions of the Hides Emergency Regulations. As there was no competition for ox-hides 45 lb. and upwards, the Committee compiled a schedule of prices as under:—

Range of Weights.	Freezer, First, 4 per Cent. Tare, f.o.b.	Freezer, Second, 4 per Cent. Tare, f.o.b.
45/52 lb.	d. $9\frac{1}{8}$	d. $8\frac{5}{8}$
53/58 lb.	$9\frac{1}{2}$	9
59/69 lb.	$9\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$
70 lb. up	$10\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{3}{4}$

POUNDAGE TARE : LOOSE

Range of Weights.	Abattoir, First.	Abattoir, Second.	Country Butchers, First.	Country Butchers, Second.	Farmers, First.	Farmers, Second.	Farmers, Third.
45/52 lb.	d. $8\frac{5}{8}$	d. $8\frac{1}{8}$	d. $8\frac{1}{8}$	d. $7\frac{5}{8}$	d. $7\frac{5}{8}$	d. $7\frac{1}{8}$	d. $6\frac{5}{8}$
53/58 lb.	$8\frac{7}{8}$	$8\frac{3}{8}$	$8\frac{3}{8}$	$7\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{7}{8}$	$7\frac{3}{8}$	$6\frac{7}{8}$
59/69 lb.	$9\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{5}{8}$	$8\frac{5}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$8\frac{1}{8}$	$7\frac{5}{8}$	$7\frac{1}{8}$
70 lb. up	$9\frac{3}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	$9\frac{1}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{3}{4}$	$8\frac{1}{4}$	$7\frac{3}{4}$

“ This schedule remained in force until the 15th November, 1943, when the New Zealand Tanners' Association intimated that it was not in a position to take 100 per cent. of all ox-hides 45 lb. and upwards, and the Committee agreed to this request.

“ *Financial Report.*—The following summary shows the position of the Equalization Fund as at 31st March, 1944:—

	£	s.	d.
“ Cash in hand at 1st April, 1943	37,988	0	4
“ Receipts from levy	84,705	5	8
	122,693	6	0
“ Less claims paid to tanners, freezing companies and exporters ..	112,468	12	11
	10,224	13	1
“ Expenses to 31st March, 1944—	£	s.	d.
“ Salaries	850	0	0
“ Sundries (rent, phone, cleaning, &c.)	59	16	9
“ Telegrams, stamps, and petty expenses	28	19	3
“ Audit fee	20	0	0
“ Bank fee and cheque book	2	10	0
	961	6	0
	9,263	7	1
“ Add cash (stabilization payment referred to below)	35,000	0	0
	44,263	7	1
“ From this must be deducted claims which were finalized but not paid at 31st March, 1944	7,976	15	8
	36,286	11	5
“ To this must be added estimated levy due on hides which have not been shipped or for which payment has not been received from H.M. Customs as at 31st March, 1944	12,964	0	0
“ Leaving an estimated surplus in hand of	£49,250	11	5

“ *Stabilization.*—When the scheme was inaugurated it was agreed that hides should be sold at the standard domestic price to tanners for the manufacture of leather for use in New Zealand.

“ A considerable amount of leather was used in the manufacture of boots for use outside New Zealand, and it was agreed by the consignees of the boots to make a payment to the Hides Equalization Fund equal to the levy which would have accrued had the hides been exported as hides and not as leather.