

TABLE 2

Factory.	Number of Contracts.	Total Fresh Tonnage.	Export.		Dehydration.		Canning and Quick-freeze.		Markets: Fresh.
			Fresh.	Trimmed.	Fresh.	Dehydrated	Fresh.	Process.	
Pukekohe ..	425	29,728	45,293,000	31,865,000	9,027,000	395,000	540,000	424,000	11,730,000
Hastings ..	435	21,793	29,412,000	19,475,000	11,241,000	669,000	..	..	8,164,000
Motueka ..	..	952	..	..	2,132,000	247,000	..	..	..
Riccarton ..	75	5,237	..	..	10,423,000	486,000	..	..	1,307,000
Totals ..	935	57,710	74,705,000	51,340,000	32,823,000	1,797,000	540,000	424,000	21,201,000

TABLE 3

Commodity.				Pukekohe.	Hastings.	Motueka.	Riccarton.	Total.
				lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.
Apples..	..	..	..	..	208,226	246,832	..	455,058
Beetroot	..	..	..	..	77,120	..	..	77,120
Cabbages	..	..	..	83,678	53,615	..	111,690	248,983
Carrots	..	..	..	278,032	197,557	..	180,144	655,733
Kumaras	..	..	..	33,600	..	..	..	33,600
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	132,931	..	194,166	327,097
Totals ..	..	..	..	395,310	669,449	246,832	486,000	1,797,591

During the war period major improvements were made in dehydration methods, especially in Britain and the United States, and officers of the Division, acting in close association with officers of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, derived benefit from the experience of these countries and from local experiments and have succeeded in producing dehydrated products of high quality. Samples have been made available to sections of the public, and the comment has been most favourable.

By agreement with Birdseye Food (N.Z.), Ltd., the Division undertook quick-freezing of peas and beans by the Birdseye system, the whole of this product being supplied to the United States Joint Purchasing Board for hospitals in the Pacific.

This process, while relatively simple in operation, demands an exceptionally high-quality standard, and the vegetable must be processed within a few hours of harvesting so that the garden freshness can be conserved in the stored article. The plant was completed in November, and by the end of March had processed—

Peas	..	..	..	..	..	..	72,922
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	..	115,429
Spinach	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,155
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	189,506

In addition, small experiments were carried out in strawberries, peaches, and eels.

Canning has proved a most economic ancillary line to quick-freeze, and during the season 192,139 30 oz. tins of peas and 6,386 30 oz. tins of beans were produced. In addition, small experiments were made in the canning of peaches and pears.