

1904.
NEW ZEALAND.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE COLONY ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1904.

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, 1904.

Department of Agriculture,
Wellington, 8th July, 1904.
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, 1904.

District.	Number of Sheep.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1903.*	1904.		
Auckland	784,043	693,302	...	90,741
Napier	4,419,419	4,504,709	85,290	...
Wellington—West Coast	4,230,369	4,023,278	...	207,091
Marlborough—Nelson	927,483	932,073	4,590	...
Canterbury—Kaikoura	4,960,474	4,776,686	...	183,788
Otago	3,632,765	3,359,491	...	273,274
Total	18,954,553	18,289,539	89,880	754,894
Decrease, North Island			...	212,542
Decrease, South Island			...	452,472
Total decrease			...	665,014

* Complete returns.

The boundaries of the Napier, Wellington—West Coast, Marlborough—Nelson, and Canterbury Districts have been slightly changed, the Napier and Marlborough—Nelson being somewhat larger than formerly, the other two being correspondingly smaller. Had the districts remained as last year, Napier's increase of 85,290 would have been reduced to about 10,000, and Marlborough—Nelson would have shown a decrease of over 30,000.

A further decrease in our flocks of 665,014 is shown. When it is considered that the export of carcasses of mutton and lamb for the year ending 31st March, 1904, was only 180,534 carcasses less than the previous year, whilst the number of sheep to be drawn from was considerably over a million less, it is a matter for surprise that the decrease is not more. The number of cattle, however, has increased by 132,884, or, roughly speaking, sufficient to make up the decrease in sheep.

	Number of Sheep in the Colony at 30th April.			Number of Carcasses, Mutton and Lamb, Exported for year 31st March.		
1901	20,233,099			3,144,716		
1902	20,342,727			3,349,713		
1903	18,954,553			4,636,537		
1904	*18,289,539			4,456,003		

* Approximate.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given, printing (1,775 copies), 20s.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1904