

1905.
NEW ZEALAND.

INTERIM RETURN OF SHEEP

IN THE COLONY ON THE 30TH APRIL, 1905.

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, 1905.

Department of Agriculture,
Wellington, 8th July, 1905.

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, 1905.

| District. | Number of Sheep. | | Increase. | Decrease. |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1904.* | 1905. | | |
| Auckland | 685,799 | 619,390 | ... | 66,409 |
| Napier | 4,482,877 | 4,601,429 | 118,552 | ... |
| Wellington—West Coast | 4,035,287 | 4,172,849 | 137,562 | ... |
| Marlborough—Nelson | 937,488 | 947,273 | 9,785 | ... |
| Canterbury—Kaikoura | 4,778,612 | 5,240,144 | 461,532 | ... |
| Otago | 3,360,743 | 3,540,839 | 180,096 | ... |
| Total | 18,280,806 | 19,121,924 | 907,527 | 66,409 |
| | | Increase, North Island | ... | 189,705 |
| | | Increase, South Island | ... | 651,413 |
| | | Total increase | ... | 841,118 |

* Complete returns.

The increase may be accounted for as follows:—

1. There were about 150,000 more ewes put to the ram during the season 1904.
2. The lambing was above the average.
3. The export of mutton and lamb decreased by 668,749 carcasses.

According to the agricultural and pastoral statistics for 1904–5, cattle showed a further increase of 143,303.

It is confidently anticipated that the flocks will continue to show a steady increase, as farmers are now realising the necessity for holding back a proportion of ewe lambs for breeding purposes.

The following table shows the number of sheep in the colony, and the export of mutton and lamb for the past four years, at 30th April:—

| Year. | Number of Sheep in Colony at 30th April. | Mutton Carcases exported, Year ended 30th April. | Lamb Carcases exported, Year ended 30th April. | Total Carcases Mutton and Lamb exported, Year ended 30th April. |
|-------|--|--|--|---|
| 1902 | 20,342,727 | 1,712,670 | 1,736,780 | 3,449,450 |
| 1903 | 18,954,553 | 2,497,546 | 2,006,462 | 4,504,008 |
| 1904 | 18,280,806 | 2,388,959 | 2,104,881 | 4,493,840 |
| 1905 | 19,121,924* | 1,888,065 | 1,937,026 | 3,825,091 |

* Approximate.

The large increase of sheep shown in Canterbury has been considerably assisted by imports from the North Island and from other parts of the South Island.

JOHN D. RITCHIE,
Secretary for Agriculture.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, not given; printing (1,775 copies), £1 5s.

By Authority: JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1905.

Price 3d.]