

By reason of the variation in the quantity of dairy-produce shipped from the different classes of ports, as compared with meat, the whole problem of shipping these two commodities really requires to be negotiated separately.

The Dairy Board negotiated its first shipping contract in 1924, and contracts were renewed in 1927, 1930, and 1933. All the negotiations were carried out between the shipping companies and representatives of the Meat and Dairy Boards, and the reductions obtained were on the same percentage basis to both Boards. During this period the quantity of dairy-produce has increased by a much larger percentage than meat. It is reasonable to suggest that the value of dairy-produce as a freight for the shipowners has been greatly enhanced, and should thus be entitled to a greater reduction in freight rates.

The following figures indicate the dairy-produce and meat exported from New Zealand for the 1923-24 season, and the 1933-34 season :—

		Butter (Tons).			Cheese (Tons).		
		Season 1933-34.	Season 1923-24.	Increase.	Season 1933-34.	Season 1923-24.	Increase.
Auckland	..	93,020	29,020	64,000	21,180	9,550	11,630
Wellington	..	18,420	8,930	9,490	41,380	32,630	8,750
New Plymouth	..	10,250	4,900	5,350	19,350	14,000	5,350
Wanganui	..	3,900	3,770	130	2,900	1,260	1,640
Napier	..	3,730	..	3,730	100	..	100
Gisborne	..	2,800	880	1,920	70	..	70
North Island	..	132,120	47,500	84,620	84,980	57,440	27,540
Lyttelton	..	2,590	2,080	510	1,210	1,610	Dec. 400
Timaru	..	390	500	Dec. 110	810	750	60
Dunedin	..	1,220	1,340	Dec. 120	2,380	1,890	490
Bluff	..	630	920	Dec. 290	13,770	9,940	3,830
South Island	..	4,830	4,840	Dec. 10	18,170	14,190	3,980
Dominion totals	..	136,950	52,340	84,610	103,150	71,630	31,520

NOTE.—Napier was not a grading port until 1925.

COMBINED TOTALS, BUTTER AND CHEESE.

				Season 1933-34.	Season 1923-24.	Increase.
				Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Auckland	..	..	..	114,200	38,570	75,630
Wellington	..	..	..	59,800	41,560	18,240
New Plymouth	..	..	..	29,600	18,900	10,700
Wanganui	..	..	..	6,800	5,030	1,770
Napier	..	..	..	3,830	..	3,830
Gisborne	..	..	..	2,870	880	1,990
North Island	..	..	..	217,100	104,940	112,160
Lyttelton	..	..	..	3,800	3,690	110
Timaru	..	..	..	1,200	1,250	Decrease 50
Dunedin	..	..	..	3,600	3,230	370
Bluff	..	..	..	14,400	10,860	3,540
South Island	..	..	..	23,000	19,030	3,970

Increase, 93 per cent.