

Well written
rough rather
dull

B++
1935

Royal Empire Society Essay
Competition 1935

Class B

2nd Prize

"What parts of the Empire are supplied
with the goods which are produced in your
own neighbourhood."

James Ralston Kirkner
Born

1935
class B
2nd

51 Clifford St.,
Gisborne,
New Zealand

Waitaki Boys' High School,
Oamaru,
North Otago,
New Zealand.

Map of South Island showing in dotted lines the district of North Otago.



South Island of New Zealand

In the beautiful southern Pacific Ocean,

twelve hundred miles from Australia, lies the Islands of New-Zealand. Between the latitudes 45° and $45^{\circ}30'$, and longitudes 170° and 171° , the prosperous agricultural district of North-Otago is situated. It is bounded in the North, by the swift-flowing Waitaki-River, sometimes called the Tweed of New-Zealand, because it divides the Canterbury and Otago provinces, the original English and Scottish settlements, and in the South by the small town of Palmerston-South. Its chief town and port is Damaru, a pretty little town of some seven-thousand inhabitants.

North-Otago is essentially an agricultural and pastoral district, with exceptionally rich soil, and luxuriant grass, and has an annual rainfall of 23 inches, which is spread evenly over the year. The hours of sunlight are long, and refreshing sea-breezes are frequently experienced. From the foothills to the coast on the flat land and easy downs, cropping is undertaken, this district being one of the chief wheat-growing areas in New-Zealand. From the foothills to the Kakanui Range, is to be found a large stretch of excellent sheep country, and here are to be found large sheep-stations. Dairying is carried on, on some of the low ~~lying~~ ^{plying} and well watered land, and an outstanding feature here, is the rich grass. The milk is separated, the cream being collected by vans from various dairy companies, while the skimmed milk is fed to the pigs, and owing to the good quality of the milk the pigs are well nourished.

Poultry-farming is very popular in North-Otago particularly near Oamaru. White-deghorns are the most kept hens, as they are found to be the best layers. Some of the land has had to be irrigated with surprising results. One farm, North of Oamaru, carrying over six sheep to the acre. North Otago has its own freezing-works at Pukeuri, about three miles North of Oamaru, owned by a Co-Operative company composed of local farmers. The port of Oamaru controls the districts exports, and can accommodate fairly large overseas vessels. The whole district is opened up by roads, and railway, and the most distant area is accessible.

The prime product of North-Otago is frozen mutton, and the market overseas for it, is very large. The country is excellent for sheepfarming, and this of course is the main occupation. The breed which is killed for mutton, is mainly "Southdown," but some "Corriedales," are also included. The sheep are taken to the Pukeuri-Freezing-Works, about three miles from Oamaru, where they are slaughtered, and prepared for exporting. They are then taken to Oamaru in a frozen state, and shipped in special ships abroad. These ships called "refrigerator," ships are generally specially made for the purpose, and very seldom carry passengers. Specially insulated holds are constructed, into which the mutton is packed, and kept frozen and fresh all the long journey to England. The only direct importer of North-Otago

mutton and lamb, is England, although some of it is re-exported from England and has been known to go as far as West-Africa. The pioneer in the frozen mutton exporting of North Otago, was "John Dryden", to whose memory a monument has been erected.

Another important pastoral export of North Otago is wool. The sheep of the district are noted for their excellent quality of wool, and it is in great demand in several European countries, as well as in the Motherland. Most of our wool is sent direct to the United Kingdom, to be made into woollen goods, but a small quantity is sent to Canada and Australia for blending purposes. The wool is of very fine texture especially that of the Corriedale breed. Oamaru has its own Woollen Mills, but does not export manufactured goods.

Butter is exported from North Otago in large quantities, to England, Canada, and South-Africa, in spite of the competition of the Danish market. It is sent in the same type of ship as frozen mutton, but is chilled not frozen, and is packed in boxes of non-smelling "White-Pine". The difference between chilling and freezing is that mutton is kept under freezing point, and butter slightly above, about 34° Farenheit. The renowned "Anchor," brand of butter is in demand in Canada, and British Columbia, where a good market is established.

A small quantity of honey is ex-

ported from the district, but owing to the small number of ^{species} ~~species~~ in the district, this is not a very profitable export. Eggs are another minor export, the majority going to England. The necessity of importing eggs to Great Britain is explained by the fact, that owing to the huge population, and the corresponding small area, people for sanitary purposes are not allowed to keep fowls to any extent. The eggs are chilled, not frozen, as the freezing process would crack them, and are generally unloaded in England perfectly fresh and edible.

The chilled-beef industry in North Otago is not very great, but quite a large quantity is shipped from Parnu in conjunction with South, and Central Otago. The beef, unlike lamb and mutton, is chilled not frozen, as it has been found by experiment in the Low Temperature laboratories at Cambridge, that if frozen, on thawing out the quality of the meat is affected. The beef is chilled to 34° Fahrenheit, and then placed in special holds into which carbon-dioxide is introduced, to stop mould. This discovery was a great help to New Zealand beef exporters as hitherto mould was very frequent and many shipments were rendered uneatable. The only market is England.

The Hide and Skin exports of North Otago are very high, and many shipments are sent yearly. The biggest market for North Otago Hides and Skins is England, although a small quantity is sent to Aust.

ralia. Many of the Hides and Skins of North-Otago, come back again as manufactured articles. It is a well known fact that so called genuine Morocco purses, and Snake and Crocodile skin shoes, are nothing more than stamped North Otago hides and skins. The lamb skins are also used to make gloves, as they can be split into several thicknesses and softened.

The potatoe exporting from North-Otago is very erratic, although at times large shiploads are sent. The only large buyers are Australia, and Tasmania. The chief difficulty confronting the potatoe exporter is the embargoe placed on New-Zealand potatoes, by the Australian government. Australian local growers are out-marketed by North Otago, and other parts of New-Zealand owing to the considerably cheaper and better quality of our potatoes. To make up for the potatoe embargo however, New-Zealand puts an embargo on all Australian Oranges, until the government lifts the potatoe embargo, and so the competition goes on. At times however, exceptionally big loads are taken, in one instance a man chartering a whole ship for potatoes alone.

The apple exports of North-Otago are not very great, as the number of orchards are limited. The port of Oamaru exports quite a large number of apples in cold storage, but they are mostly grown in Central Otago. The only markets are Australia, and England.

The Bacon and Pork exports of North-Otago

are very large, and improving yearly. The pigs bred in the district are very good baconers, inclined to be slightly fatty, but of excellent quality. The sole importer of our bacon and Pork is England, where a large market is established. It is sent home in chill and so retains an excellent flavour.

Grass-seed is exported freely in large quantities, and the resultant grass is found to be excellent. The best seed grown in North-Otago, and exported from Pamaru, is Hawke-Bay-Rye-Grass. This seed originated in Hawke-Bay in the North-Island, and was transplanted to North-Otago, where it flourished in the rich soil exceptionally well. Several weed grasses are exported, the chief being the well known Brown Top seed, which is used mostly for golf and bowling greens. The quality of this seed in the district is very good. The importers of our seed are, Canada, Australia, South Africa, and England.

The Freezing-Works products namely casings, tallow, tongues, livers, sweetbreads, hearts, and kidneys are sent from the Pukeuri Works in large quantities to Pamaru, to be exported abroad. The only markets in the Empire for North-Otago freezing works products ^{are} England, and Canada, who take a fairly large quantity. Casings which are the intestines of sheep cleaned and prepared, are salted down in barrels and sent in cold storage to England, and Canada. Before the slump a barrel of good quality casings was worth the large sum of £50, but today the

market is not so good, and the value of a barrel is about £35. Tallow has become one of the most paying freezing-works products of the day. North Otago and other parts of New Zealand have made a great recovery from the heavy slump in fats, and oils, and Tallow has shown a marked improvement. It has perhaps made the best advance of any of the primary-products. A year ago it was quoted at 15/- and 16/- per cwt. while today it is worth 27/-, and in some cases more. Two grades are exported from North Otago, I edible which is used in cooking, and the manufacture of sweets, and second the grade used for manufacturing candles. Tongues, livers, sweet-breads, and hearts, are frozen into one pound blocks and carried frozen to England. Some North Otago tongues are sent to various other parts of New Zealand, where they are canned and exported, but none are canned in the district.

The market for fats and oils having risen North Otago exports a fairly large quantity of Peatsfoot-oil, a product made by rendering down sheep's hoofs in a steam digester. It is used as a dressing for leather, and is exported from North Otago to England only. Together with the Peatsfoot oil a small amount of blood and bone manure, which is cooked in a steam-digester under-pressure, then dressed, dried, and powdered, is also exported.

About eight miles South of Pamaru is the settlement of Kakanui, and it is here that the Kakanui-Lime-Kilns are situated. From them we get builders lime, which is

sent to Australia, and agricultural-lime
^{and quick-lime} which is used in the skin departments
 of Australian-freezing-works. The builders
 lime is quarried, crushed, and burned, and
 quite a large amount is exported.

Smoked-fish, lobsters-tails, and Flour,
 are exported from North-Otago in small
 quantities, the fish being caught at Moraki
 a small seaside settlement. The flour is
 used for blending mostly, and all three
 are exported to Australia and Canada.

Another local export of North-Otago
 is Lanes Emulsion, ^{which} ~~which~~ is manufactured
 here, and sent to Australia and England.

On the stations of North-Otago
 there are bred Stud Clydesdale Horses,
 which have no equal in New Zealand,
 and breeders dispose of as many good ones
 as they can breed. They are very valuable
 and cost anything up to £400 guineas.
 One North-Otago Clydesdale won the
 Royal-Sydney Show in 1934 and was sold
 for 300 guineas in Australia.

Stud sheep are exported from North
 Otago to Australia, Canada, and South-
 Africa, the best breed being the renowned
 Corriedales, which originated in North-
 Otago. They are noted for being one of the
 best mutton and wool ~~can~~ carrying sheep
 in New Zealand.

From these facts it will be
 seen, that although North-Otago is a
 comparatively small district, it is very
 fertile and progressive. The chief importer
 of our goods within the Empire is England,
 and if New Zealand statistics be consulted,

it will be seen that the majority of New-
Zealand's imported manufactured articles
come from England.

Books consulted

- 1 The New-Zealand Farmer (1934 and 1935)
 - (2) New-Zealand Year Book (1934) (1935)
 - (3) Encyclopaedia Britannica
 - (4) Touring in New-Zealand (A. J. Harrop)
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