

Purchase of Cheese on behalf of Imperial Government.

THE following communication has been made to representatives of contracting parties, and is published for general information.

W. D. S. MacDONALD,
Minister of Agriculture.

Wellington, 5th February, 1917.

With reference to the Order in Council of the 16th January, 1917, prohibiting the export of cheese, which appeared in the *Gazette* of the same date, and also to clause 14. notification of the same date by the Minister of Agriculture indicating the terms under which cheese would be purchased on behalf of the Imperial Government, which reads as follows:—

“No cheese will be purchased by the Government which is the subject of a contract of sale and purchase entered into by the manufacturer before the date of the aforesaid Order in Council of the sixteenth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen, and in force at that date, until and unless such contract has been cancelled by the consent of the parties thereto, or such other arrangement has been made in respect thereof as the Minister of Agriculture thinks just and reasonable. If no such cancellation or arrangement is effected within such time as the Minister thinks reasonable, such cheese will be purchased or otherwise acquired by the Government on such terms as may be hereafter determined, and either from the manufacturer or from the purchaser, as the Government may think just in the circumstances of each case”:

I have the honour to inform you that as I have been advised by the parties concerned that they have been unable to consent to the cancellation of the contracts for the sale and purchase of cheese referred to, or to make any such other arrangements as are provided for in the clause, the Government has decided that it is prepared to purchase from the factories the cheese which is subject to such contracts, and which had not been shipped on the exporting ocean steamer at the date of the coming into operation of the Order in Council—namely, 16th January—at the price fixed by the aforesaid notification—namely, 9½d. per pound f.o.b.: Provided always that the payment for such cheese shall be subject to a deduction of 1¼ per cent. to be paid by the Government to the other parties concerned in the contracts, by way of compensation for the expenditure incurred by them in respect of such contracts. Subject to such deduction all such cheese will be purchased by the Government on the same terms and conditions as if no such contracts had been entered into.

Contracting parties affected should take an early opportunity of forwarding copies of their contracts to the Controller, Department of Imperial Government Supplies, Wellington.

By Authority: MARCUS F. MARKS, Government Printer, Wellington.