

Minister's Decisions under Customs Duties Act.

Customs Department, Wellington, 19th May, 1920.

IT is hereby notified for public information that the Hon. the Minister of Customs has decided to interpret the Customs Duties Act in relation to the undermentioned articles as follows:—

NOTE.—“Not otherwise enumerated” appears as n.o.e.; “other kinds” as o.k.; “articles and materials suited only for, and to be used solely in, the fabrication of goods in the Dominion” as a. & m.s. Articles marked thus † are revised decisions.

Record.	Goods.	Classification under Tariff, and Item No.	Rate of Duty.	
			General Tariff.	Preferential Surtax on Foreign Goods.
5/101	A. and m.s., viz. :— Cotton cuffs, knitted in long lengths, to be cut up for the manufacture of hosiery in New Zealand	As a. and m.s. (482)	Free.	
6/121	Fibre corners for the manufacture of portmanteaux			
3/189/2	Gas cookers, fittings for the manufacture of, viz. :— Enamelled iron crowns specially suited for placing on top of and completing gas cookers, and enamelled iron plates with edges turned over for the oven-doors thereof			
3/379	Tennis-racquet presses, metal fittings for the manufacture of, viz. :— Screwed bolts, whether hinged or otherwise Spiral springs for bolts, when accompanying the same Winged nuts and washers			
3/243	Churns, household, viz. :— “Ladd Mixer-churns”	As churns (430)	Free.	
3/427	Knitting and crochet pins or needles ..	As haberdashery n.o.e. (81) ..	20 per cent. ..	10 per cent.
3/37/4	Machinery, dairying, viz. :— “Preston's Patent Cow Detector.” [NOTE.—The “totalizator” used in connection with this machine is subject to duty as cabinetware n.o.e.]	As dairying machinery (396) ..	Free ..	10 per cent.
11/41	Motor-cycles, fittings for, viz. :— Finished leaf springs, enamelled, painted, or bored, for the manufacture or repair of motor-cycles	As parts of motor-cycles (170) ..	10 per cent. ..	10 per cent.
12/5/12	Surgical appliances, viz. :— High-frequency resonator (Schall and Son's), consisting of d'Arsonval transformer with large leyden jars, spark gap, and resonator	As surgical appliances (279) ..	Free.	
3/426	Tin pipe, solid drawn, not wrought, plated, or polished	As metal tubing in the rough (367)	Free.	
3/225/4	Tire retreader, the “Ewald,” a bench hand-press for stapling another tread on the outer casing of a motor-vehicle tire	As artificers' tools n.o.e. (359) ..	Free.	

Minister's Order D. 50.]

W. B. MONTGOMERY,
Comptroller of Customs.

Population of the Dominion.

RETURN of the Estimated Population of the Dominion of New Zealand on the 31st March, 1920.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Estimated population (exclusive of Maoris and residents of Cook and other Pacific Islands) on 31st December, 1919	588,888	575,517	1,164,405
Increase during March quarter, 1920—			
By excess of births over deaths	2,425	2,632	5,057
By excess of immigration over emigration	3,242	1,435	4,677
Estimated population (exclusive of Maoris and residents of Cook and other Pacific Islands) on 31st March, 1920	594,555	579,584	1,174,139
Maori population, Census, 1916	25,933	23,843	49,776
Population of Cook and other Pacific Islands, Census, 1916	6,552	6,245	12,797
Total estimated population of the Dominion on 31st March, 1920	627,040	609,672	1,236,712

BIRTHS.

In the *Gazette* of 5th February, 1920, it was pointed out that it was reasonable to expect that the improvement in the birth-rate disclosed by the figures for the quarter ended 31st December, 1919, would be at least maintained in 1920. This anticipation has been more than realized during the quarter ended 31st March, 1920, when the number of births registered was 7,531, an increase of 1,470 over the corresponding quarter of 1919. The birth-rate for the quarter is equal to an annual rate of 25.85 per 1,000 of mean population, as compared with a rate of only 21.55 for the year 1919.

Census and Statistics Office,
Wellington, 17th May, 1920.J. W. BUTCHER,
Acting Government Statistician.