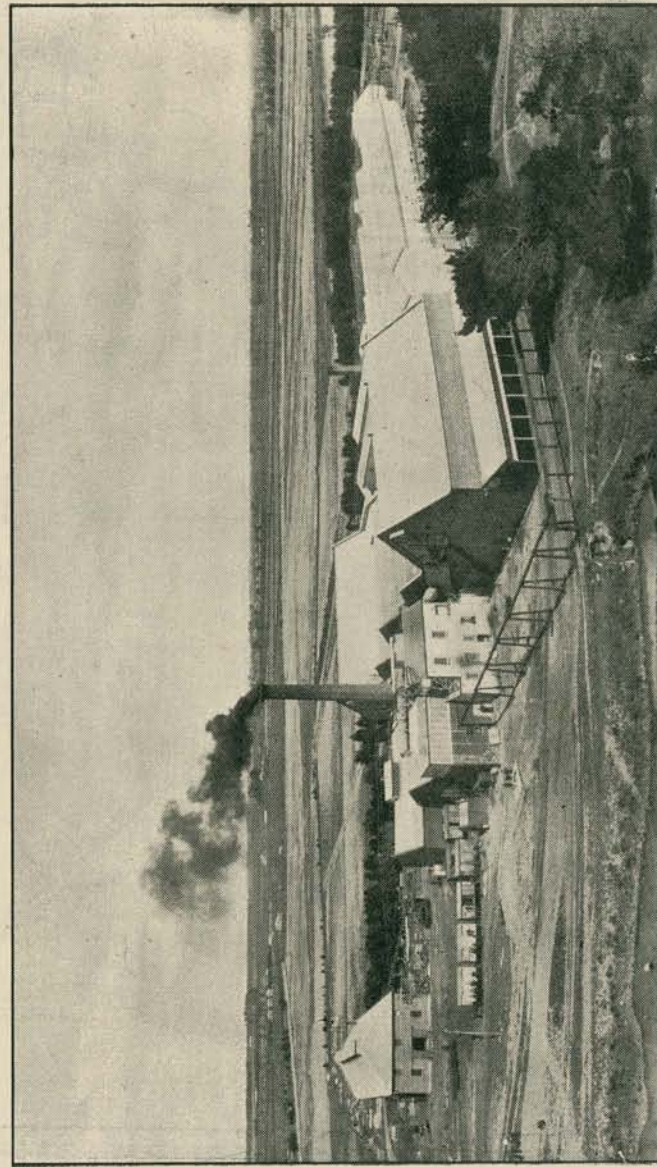


imported from Australia; while the official return for the year ending June 31st, 1892 gives 71,849 bales shipped. The first wool auction of which any record can be found was that held by Messrs. H. Matson & Co., on January 10th, 1866, when they advertised 30 bales, in addition to any further consignments that might come forward. The sale was conducted by the late Mr. John T. Matson, in the store, which is still standing in Lichfield Street. The building, which is composed entirely of iron, was imported expressly from England and put together here. The report of the sale, which appeared in the "Lyttelton Times" of January 13th, 1866, is as follows: "The first wool sale took place on January 10th in the iron stores of H. Matson & Co., in Lichfield Street; the attendance was good and nearly every lot sold at satisfactory prices. Washed fleeces brought 1/3½ per lb., Greasy wool realised from 9¾d. to 10¾d., Locks and Pieces half price."

The firm, during the last year, topped the list of Wool-selling Brokers, so that their efforts have been well recognised and supported by the growers of Canterbury, and last year they headed the list with an offering of 8,244 bales for the season. The firm of H. Matson & Co. is a household word through New Zealand.

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