

The grading of meat intended for local consumption has been carried out at abattoirs and freezing-works. Although some difficulties have been experienced, the work of grading is generally satisfactory to the trade.

The total numbers of stock slaughtered at registered premises (rural slaughterhouses included) for the year ended 31st March, 1947, were: sheep, 4,726,167; lambs, 11,775,144; cattle, 661,918; calves, 1,037,302; swine, 593,474.

The table below shows the numbers of stock slaughtered during the past year at freezing-works only:—

Class of Stock.	Year ended		Increase or Decrease.
	31st March, 1947.	31st March, 1946.	
Cattle	438,095	507,440	69,345 (decrease).
Calves	999,526	941,660	57,866 (increase).
Sheep	3,659,296	3,939,750	280,454 (decrease).
Lambs	11,620,861	12,518,554	897,693 ..
Swine	481,545	628,047	146,502 ..

For further comparison, the following table, showing the killings of sheep and lambs at meat-export slaughterhouses for four seasons, 1st October to 31st March, indicates the stock killed from the beginning of each season to 31st March:—

Stock.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.
Sheep	1,937,477	1,894,985	2,594,571	2,348,620
Of which were ewes	1,499,798	1,349,074	1,967,187	1,729,109
Lambs	7,407,317	7,119,633	8,735,367	8,246,064

The following table shows the number of stock slaughtered under direct inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1947, at abattoirs and meat-export slaughterhouses:—

Class of Stock.	Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Total Slaughtering under Inspection.
Cattle	164,660	438,095	602,755
Calves	36,831	999,526	1,036,357
Sheep	831,723	3,659,296	4,491,019
Lambs	132,615	11,620,861	11,753,476
Swine	98,093	481,545	579,638

Slaughtering at rural slaughterhouses during the year were as follows: cattle, 59,163; calves, 945; sheep, 235,148; lambs, 21,668; swine, 13,836.

Of the animals shown in the table above as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following have gone into consumption within the Dominion: cattle, 51,536; calves, 26,397; sheep, 343,727; lambs, 173,849; swine, 185,120.

COMPENSATION PAID FOR STOCK AND MEAT CONDEMNED

Compensation amounting to £21,305 15s. was paid out during the year for animals condemned in the field under the provisions of the Stock Act, and £19,906 11s. 7d. for carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned for disease on slaughter for human consumption at abattoirs, meat-export slaughterhouses, &c., under the provisions of the Meat Act.

IMPORTATION OF STOCK

The following stock were imported during the year: cattle, 28; sheep, 199; pigs, 12; horses, 80 (including the movement of thoroughbreds between here and Australia). Of the above animals, the following were placed in quarantine for the respective periods required: cattle, 28; pigs, 12; sheep, 14.