

At several works the labour problem is still difficult and the managements find trouble in maintaining a high standard of dressing of the carcasses.

The grading of carcasses intended for local consumption has been carried out with general satisfaction to the trade and the consumer.

The total numbers of stock slaughtered at registered premises (rural slaughterhouses included) were: sheep, 4,474,743; lambs, 12,745,282; cattle, 746,480; calves, 1,102,790; swine, 634,858.

The following table shows the numbers of stock slaughtered during the past two years at freezing-works only:—

Class of Stock.	Year ended		Increase or Decrease.
	31st March, 1948.	31st March, 1947.	
Cattle	516,660	438,095	78,565 (increase).
Calves	1,065,037	999,526	65,511 „
Sheep	3,383,099	3,659,296	276,197 (decrease).
Lambs	12,595,950	11,620,861	975,089 (increase).
Swine	520,250	481,545	38,705 „

The following table shows killings of sheep and lambs at meat-export slaughterhouses for four seasons, 1st October to 31st March:—

Stock.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Sheep	1,894,985	2,594,571	2,348,620	2,232,301
Of which ewes were ..	1,349,074	1,967,187	1,729,109	1,703,989
Lambs	7,119,633	8,735,367	8,246,064	9,243,204

The following table shows the number of stock slaughtered under direct inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1948, at abattoirs and meat-export slaughterhouses:—

Class of Stock.	Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Total Slaughtering under Inspection.
Cattle	170,722	516,660	687,382
Calves	36,876	1,065,037	1,101,913
Sheep	854,218	3,383,099	4,237,317
Lambs	129,300	12,595,950	12,725,250
Swine	104,373	520,250	624,623

Slaughtering at rural slaughterhouses during the year were as follows: cattle, 59,098; calves, 877; sheep, 237,426; lambs, 20,032; swine, 10,235.

Of the animals shown in the table as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following have gone into consumption within the Dominion: cattle, 52,813; calves, 33,023; sheep, 350,546; lambs, 189,846; swine, 222,759.

COMPENSATION PAID FOR STOCK AND MEAT CONDEMNED

Compensation amounting to £19,714 ls. 3d. was payable during the year for animals condemned in the field under the provisions of the Stock Act, and £19,455 6s. 6d. 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.