

MEAT INSPECTION AND SLAUGHTER OF STOCK

There was considerable difficulty in maintaining the efficiency of meat-works during the war because of scarcity of material for new buildings and extensions. Many extensions and improvements are now being carried out as more material becomes available. The enlarged buildings will provide better facilities for the handling of stock, for general staffing at works, and for the accommodation of employees.

Little difficulty was experienced in obtaining labour during the season, but in some cases it was necessary to provide accommodation for single men.

The following table shows the number of stock slaughtered at registered premises during the year ended 31st March, 1949 :—

Class of Stock.	Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Total Slaughtering Under Direct Inspection.	Plus Rural Slaughterhouses.	Total at Registered Premises.
Cattle	180,877	416,604	596,881	64,397	661,278
Calves	40,302	1,129,591	1,160,803	733	1,161,536
Sheep	843,838	3,206,370	4,050,208	246,216	4,296,424
Lambs	142,276	12,228,754	12,371,030	18,698	12,389,728
Pigs	110,487	504,661	615,148	11,818	626,966

Of the animals shown in the table as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following have gone into consumption within the Dominion: cattle, 61,954; calves, 44,496; sheep, 415,903; lambs, 238,056; pigs, 238,095.

The following table compares the numbers of stock slaughtered during the past three years at meat-export slaughterhouses only :—

Class of Stock.	Year Ended			Increase or Decrease Compared with 1948.
	31st March, 1947.	31st March, 1948.	31st March, 1949.	
Cattle	438,095	516,660	416,004	100,656 (decrease).
Calves	999,526	1,065,037	1,120,501	55,464 (increase).
Sheep	3,659,296	3,383,099	3,206,370	176,729 (decrease).
Lambs	11,620,861	12,595,950	12,228,754	367,196 ..
Pigs	481,545	520,250	504,661	15,589 ..

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

Stock.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.	1948-49.
Sheep	2,594,571	2,348,620	2,232,301	2,300,880
Of which ewes were	1,967,187	1,729,109	1,703,989	1,875,339
Lambs	8,735,367	8,246,064	9,243,204	9,294,635

COMPENSATION PAID FOR STOCK AND MEAT CONDEMNED

Compensation amounting to £20,124 was payable during the year for animals condemned in the field under the provisions of the Stock Act, and £16,917 16s. 9d. 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.