

The following table shows the stock slaughtered during the past year at freezing-works only, the previous year's figures being shown for comparison :—

Stock.				Year ended 31st March, 1937.	Year ended 31st March, 1936.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cattle	..	..	..	244,834	305,868	..	61,034
Calves	..	..	..	957,141	986,145	..	29,004
Sheep	..	..	..	2,121,925	1,882,446	239,479	..
Lambs	..	..	..	9,180,482	8,564,482	616,000	..
Swine	..	..	..	807,041	768,976	38,065	..

For further purposes of comparison the following table is given, showing the killings of sheep and lambs at meat-export slaughterhouses over four periods, 1st October to 31st March in each year, as indicative of the slaughtering from the beginning of each season to 31st March :—

Stock.				1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.	1936-37.
Sheep	..	..	..	1,293,617	1,735,237	1,287,331	1,276,234
Lambs	..	..	..	6,030,575	6,626,315	6,269,694	6,536,408

These figures show a decrease of 11,097 sheep and an increase of 266,714 lambs compared with the same period last year.

Following are the numbers of each class of animal slaughtered under direct inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1936 : Cattle, 417,706 ; calves, 1,043,855 ; sheep, 2,687,518 ; lambs, 9,274,839 ; swine, 1,035,347.

The following table indicates the respective classes of premises at which these animals were slaughtered :—

Stock.				Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Bacon Factories.
Cattle	..	..	..	172,872	244,834	..
Calves	..	..	..	86,714	957,141	..
Sheep	..	..	..	565,593	2,121,925	..
Lambs	..	..	..	94,357	9,180,482	..
Swine	..	..	..	170,063	807,041	58,243

Stock slaughtered at ordinary slaughterhouses during the year ended 31st March, 1935, was as follows : Cattle, 88,435 ; calves, 1,972 ; sheep, 213,797 ; lambs, 19,883 ; swine, 27,163. Carcasses of pork killed and dressed by farmers, sent into butchers' shops and small factories, and examined by Departmental officers, numbered 25,488.

In connection with the animals shown in the above tables as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following numbers are returned as having gone into consumption within the Dominion : Cattle, 34,754 ; calves, 99,772 ; sheep, 187,810 ; lambs, 91,300 ; swine, 139,894.

COMPENSATION PAID FOR STOCK AND MEAT CONDEMNED.

Compensation to the amount of £12,944 was paid out during the year for animals condemned in the field for disease under the provisions of the Stock Act, and £26,281 for carcasses, or parts of carcasses, condemned for disease on examination at the time of slaughter at abattoirs, meat-export slaughterhouses, &c., under the provisions of the Slaughtering and Inspection Act.

IMPORTATION OF STOCK.

The following stock was imported during the year : Cattle, 40 ; sheep, 414 ; pigs, 5 ; horses, 24 (draught). Of the above animals, the following were placed in quarantine for the respective periods required : Cattle, 41 ; sheep, 7 ; pigs, 5.

EXPORTATION OF STOCK.

During the year under review the following animals were exported : Sheep, 6,113 ; cattle, 15 ; pigs, 52 ; horses, 22 (draught).

There was the usual movement of thoroughbred horses to and from Australia.

POULTRY.

The poultry industry of the Dominion is one that presents very great difficulties in the attempts at bringing about a better system of organization, as in spite of the activities of the Poultry Board and the Producers' Federation, which it set up, the progress has not been as satisfactory as one would wish. Throughout the year the health of flocks has generally been good, but several instances of coccidiosis, especially in the North Island, came under notice.