

The following table, showing the stock slaughtered at freezing establishments alone during the year, with the previous year's figures shown for comparison, indicates the increase that has taken place over the twelve-months period :—

—				Year ended 31st March, 1925.	Year ended 31st March, 1924.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cattle	..	..	..	247,883	184,848	63,035	..
Sheep	..	..	..	2,564,530	1,932,259	632,271	..
Lambs	..	..	..	4,832,493	5,118,981	..	286,488
Calves	..	..	..	22,775	18,776	3,999	..
Swine	..	..	..	142,168	113,200	28,968	..

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

—				1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
Sheep	..	..	..	2,091,840	1,244,490	1,462,128	1,821,901
Lambs	..	..	..	3,011,695	3,128,415	3,492,004	3,360,761

These figures indicate that an increased number of sheep were slaughtered during the period named, which covers part only of the 1924-25 season, and that a decreased number of lambs were slaughtered. The increase in sheep for the 1924-25 period, however, more than balances the respective totals. The decrease in lamb slaughtering over the period, if not counterbalanced during April slaughtering, will be reflected in an increased number of sheep as at the 30th April, 1925.

INSPECTION OF MEAT.

The inspection of all animals slaughtered at meat-export works, abattoirs, and bacon-factories combined was carried out satisfactorily during the year, but owing to the large increase in slaughtering the available experienced staff was somewhat below requirements, and the necessity of strengthening the personnel, with a view to maintaining an adequate trained staff to meet all emergencies, must be given attention before another season comes round.

The following are the numbers of each class of animal slaughtered under direct inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1925 :—

Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	397,432
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	63,996
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,106,209
Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,903,831
Swine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	279,925

The following table indicates the respective class of premises at which these animals were slaughtered, those going through abattoirs being almost wholly for local consumption, except perhaps in the case of swine, and those slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses being intended principally for export :—

—						Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Bacon-factories.
Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	149,549	247,883	..
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	41,221	22,775	..
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	541,679	2,564,530	..
Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	71,338	4,832,493	..
Swine	..	..	..	..	..	100,043	142,168	37,714

At ordinary slaughterhouses the stock slaughtered was as follows :—

Cattle	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90,706
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,311
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	248,091
Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,542
Swine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27,849

In addition, 37,848 carcasses of pork killed and dressed by farmers and sent in to butchers' shops were examined by departmental officers.

In connection with the animals shown in the table as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following numbers of the respective classes are returned as having gone into consumption within the Dominion : Cattle, 41,099 ; calves, 5,937 ; sheep, 151,490 ; lambs, 50, 975 ; swine, 19,760.