

increase of 3,745 in the number of asses, a decrease of 58,163 in the number of cattle, an increase of 248,954 in the number of sheep, a decrease of 10,656 in the number of pigs, an increase of 22,191 in the number of goats, and a decrease of 23,386 in the number of poultry.

The butter trade has been greatly affected by the margarine traffic, 25,914 packages of which were imported into Dublin during the year. The supply of butter in the Dublin market has been less than last year, and prices lower. There was a visible improvement in the quality, no doubt due to the excellent teaching of the Dairy Schools. At Cork, the premier butter market in both Great Britain and Ireland, the number of casks received was under that of last year, but the prices a little better. The yield has been about equal to that of 1888, but very much reduced from particular localities, where many farms have lain derelict. The following are the prices per cwt. of butter in the Cork market on the 1st November last:—Firsts, 94s.; seconds, 84s., and thirds, 71s.

With respect to live-stock stores, both cattle and sheep have continued dear all through the season, and graziers have not made much profit, however, on account of the high price for young stock. It is said that largely increased numbers of calves have been raised in several districts. The mildness of the weather during the past season has been most advantageous in enabling stock to be kept out on the grass lands longer than usual. Feeding stuffs of all kinds have been cheap, the supply of hay has been plentiful, and good. Inferior barley has been obtained so low as 10s. per barrel, and maize likewise has been selling at low rates. For sheep, better prices have been paid, owing to the advancing in wool which has touched 12½d. per pound. The supply of pigs for the year has been much less than in 1888, prices in some parts of the summer went up to 54s. per cwt., but during the winter months fell to 40s., and is now only 38s. in the Dublin market.

In the shipments of livestock from all Ireland for the past year there is a falling off of 58,219 in cattle, 16,760 in sheep and 52,385 in pigs. But there has been an increase of 2,268 in the shipment of horses. The following figures give the exports for the year:—Cattle 657,876, sheep 604,492, swine 482,048, horses 31,908, making a grand total of 1,776,524 animals exported.

Mr. Tallerman, a gentleman of vast experience in the meat trade, in a letter recently published in the London *Times*, makes the statement that Ireland alone supplies the English markets every year with upward, of 40,000 tons more of fresh meat than all foreign countries and British colonies put together. It is no wonder that Irishmen, the world over, should love the old sod, whose natural fertility has compensated for many drawbacks, and enabled people here to pull through depressed times.

At present the live-stock export trade is the mainstay of this country; writers on economy estimate its value at from £13,000,000 to £15,000,000 annually. But Mr. Tallerman, in his letter, stated that several million pounds may be added to the value of Irish stock, if the fat cattle and other animals, shipped for slaughter in England, were killed at home, and a dead meat trade established with Great Britain, and he specifies about sixty new industries which would spring up in Ireland in connection with the dead meat trade that would give profitable employment to a considerable number of people.

The statements in Mr. Tallerman's letter, although, I think, a little exaggerated, are very favourably commented on in the Irish papers, and well received by many leading agriculturists, and I believe his project of a dead meat trade will be adopted here to some extent before long. The Board of Trade Returns show a large increase in the importation of dead meat, compared with last year, and even here in Dublin there are a dozen shops for the sale of American beef and Australian mutton.

I think that a dead meat trade should be a profitable one for Canada also, when your farmers and stock raisers have to pay so much in freight to place their cattle on the English markets.

I am pleased to be able to state that you had many Irish visitors in Canada this season. I met several since their return, who praised the country very much, and