THE LIVE STOCK SITUATION FROM THE MARKETING STANDPOINT

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The live stock industry has contributed to the industrial revenue of Canada an aggregate of exports, for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1916, to the value of $105,919,190. This averages a return of over two million dollars per week. For the fiscal years ending March 31st, 1913, 1914 and 1915, the animal produce exports have totalled respectively $45,773,227, $54,612,072 and $76,956,002. Thus, within the period of the war, the exports of animals and animal products have doubled, while for the four-year period they have increased practically one hundred and fifty per cent.

The High Place of Agriculture.—Considering the value of the exports of animal produce with that of the exports of agricultural produce, the aggregate for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1916, amounted to $372,394,380, as compared with a total export value for the same period, of manufactures, including munitions, of $250,052,223. In other words, the total export value of agricultural produce is practically one and one-half times as great as the value of the exports of manufacture, including munitions of war. Pressing the comparison still further, the aggregate of exports from all sources, including mining, fishing, lumbering, manufactures and agriculture, for the fiscal year 1915-16, amounted to $779,300,070. Of this the total export value of animal and agricultural products amounted to 48 per cent. For the fiscal years 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14 and 1914-15, the export value of animal and agricultural products amounted respectively to 53 per cent., 51 per cent., 57 per cent. and 54 per cent. In other words, during the last five fiscal years the exports of agriculture yielded an industrial revenue to the country of more than half, to be exact 52.6 per cent., of the total return from all sources combined. Again, the aggregate export trade for the first five months, April, May, June, July and August, of the current fiscal year, amounted to $443,-254,333, of which $222,176,467 represents the proportionate value of agricultural products, or slightly over 50 per cent. of the total exports. Bearing in mind the fact that the great increase in the export value of manufactured products may be attributed almost entirely to the manufacture of war munitions, the financial return yielded to the country by agriculture is all the more creditable. It will be observed that the latter industry has increased its exports in the same enormous proportion as compared with the other industries of Canada and continues, therefore, to hold a similar ratio from the standpoint of aggregate values in foreign trade, as it held prior to the commencement of the war.

The Possibility of Permanence.—The most significant feature of this increase as relating to the live stock industry lies in the fact that it reveals the possibility or, at least, suggests the opportunity, of the continuance of a permanent trade, following the declaration of peace. Apart from the export of such products as tinned meat, pork and beans, etc., which may be required only temporarily for war purposes, the export trade in live stock products centres round the sale of such staple food commodities as cheese, eggs, bacon and fresh beef. The following table will serve to indicate the greatly increasing value of the export trade in these products, as well as the substantial return to the country which each of them now yields.