

By Mr. Wilson :

Q. Just excuse me a moment. Do I understand this 2 cents pays the freight and all the costs to the Old Country, including slaughtering?—A. Yes. The 2 cents per lb. was got at in this way: I have copies of some account sales of cattle actually shipped last year from Montreal by Hon. Senator Cochrane. I took the freight charges, the selling charges, the lairage charges, the killing charges, the refrigerating charges and the commission charges, and reckoning the sum of them on the dressed beef, the actual cost was rather less than 2 c nts per lb. I arrived at the $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. expenses of the retailer by getting information as to how many men were required in a shop to cut up so many animals. Then I made a liberal allowance for rent and labour, added nearly 100 per cent to that, and called it what the retailer might be entitled to charge, after allowing for loss of weight in cutting up. From 6 to 7 per cent is a liberal allowance for the actual loss in weight when the carcasses are bought wholesale and sold retail to customers. I have not allowed anything for the expenses from the farmers' places to Montreal, but on the other hand I have not reckoned in the $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents a lb., anything of revenue from hide, tallow or offal, although that would quite meet the actual expense of carriage of cattle from farms to Montreal. I figured on shipments of 280 cattle, and the hides, offal and fat amounted in one case to an average of \$11.76 per head, and in the other case to an average of \$11.81 per head at Liverpool. I do not think these would fetch more than two thirds of that amount in Montreal at first.

By Mr. Cochrane :

Q. That is the carcass?—A. That is the hide, tallow and the offal,—\$11.76 and \$11.81 cents per carcass. That is to illustrate the point I was making, that if the farmers of Canada came anywhere near getting $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. dressed weight for beef in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the production would be enormously increased. I am not saying they could get that—that I am going to discuss in a moment—I am stating what the retail market prices are, and the necessary expenses. If we could get the sum of the retail prices for our farmers less the actual necessary expenses and reasonable profits of the middlemen—carriers and merchants—the production of cattle would be enormously and speedily increased.

By Mr. Hughes :

Q. How did the prices compare with last year?—A. The prices of cattle last year were not higher than for the average of three or four years. I have not figured that out accurately, because I do not happen to have the figures for 1892 and 1893.

By Mr. Cargill :

Q. Supposing you got an animal that would net 500 lbs. dressed meat at $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. at Montreal, it would be equal to \$67.50 for the carcass. What would that animal be worth, on its feet before being slaughtered?—A. Last year at the prices cattle were sold at, such an animal would not have fetched more than about \$43 to \$45. That is at last year's prices, but if the carcass could be sent through this route, with the obstructions removed, then it would sell live weight for just as much as it would fetch as dressed meat.

THE BRITISH MARKET FOR FOOD PRODUCTS.

The English are good customers for food products ; of all people who purchase food they are the best. They are the customers of the world, for the nations of the world that produce a surplus of food products. I have looked over the map and the returns of the British Board of Trade and I find nearly every civilized country is a competitor for a place in the British markets. Denmark, Germany, France, the United States, and all the rest of them are engaged in a most strenuous, and merciless though peaceful, competition for the best place in her markets. If you want to pursue that point further, there are Spain, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and nearly all other countries

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