WORLD SHORTAGE OF BEEF CATTLE.

The president of the National Master Butchers' Association of the United States made the following statement a few days ago:—"There is to be no reduction in the price of meat within the next five years. American people will scarcely know the taste of meat ten years from now. Meat sales for the nation have dropped 15% during the past three years."

Ten years ago the United States was producing vast herds of the choicest beef cattle in the world and American beef was shipped to all parts of the globe. Last year, the United States imported three times as many live cattle as it exported. Between 1907 and 1913, the number of cattle in the United States decreased from 72,534,000 to 57,527,000 and the number of beef cattle decreased from 51,566,000 to 36,000,000. This decline, amounting to 30% in six years in the face of an enormous increase in population, accounts in a large measure for the increased cost of living in the United States. It certainly explains the reason for the advance in the cost of beef.

According to the latest official returns, Canada possesses 3,064,000 milk cows and of other cattle 3,380,000, or a total of 6,444,000. In 1910 Canada possessed 7,211,602 head of cattle, so that there has been a decrease of 800,000 in the past two years. Going back a few years, we find that Canada in 1905 exported 148,718 live animals to Great Britain. Last year, the export to Great Britain was 6,800 cattle. During the same period, the exports of United States cattle to Britain decreased from 414,000 to 38,987. Even Argentina which is ideally situated for grazing purposes, had 300,000 fewer cattle in 1912 than it had four years previous. Last year Argentina exported meats to the value of $67,000,000. It is interesting to note that the Argentine Republic is now taking steps to increase the number of cattle and it is altogether likely that this country will retain its place as one of the great cattle producing country of the world.

A recent estimate made by the United States Department of Commerce shows that the total value of meat and food animals entering into international trade is $450,000,000 per annum of which the United States contributed almost one-third.

Meats and food animals exported from Argentina in 1912 amounted to $67,000,000 in value; from Australia, in 1911, $31,000,000; from New Zealand, $21,000,000; from Canada, $14,000,000, and from Uruguay, $11,000,000. These six countries—the United States, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Uruguay—are the chief meat-exporting countries of the world. Of cattle alone, the number in the United States is 56,000,000, the only country having a larger number being India, with 113,000,000, while Russia in Europe and Asia has 51,000,000; Argentina, 29,000,000; Brazil, 25,000,000; Germany, 21,000,000, and the United Kingdom, 12,000,000. Canada possesses 7,200,000. Of sheep, the United States has 54,000,000; Australia, 92,000,000; Russia, 85,000,000; Argentina, 67,000,000; the United Kingdom, 30,000,000; India, 26,000,000; New Zealand, 24,000,000 and Canada 2,418,000. Of swine, the United States has 61,000,000; Russia, 13,000,000; Germany, 22,000,000, and Canada 3,254,000. The total number of food animals (including in this term merely cattle, sheep and hogs) was, at the latest available date, in the United States, 169,000,000; Russia in Europe and Asia, 149,000,000; India, 140,000,000; Australia, 104,000,000; Argentina, 93,000,00; Germany, 51,000,000; the United Kingdom, 46,000,000, and France, 39,000,000.

In the United States efforts are being made to legislate against the killing of calves for veal. It is estimated that about 9,000,000 are slaughtered in the United States each year, and that if these calves were allowed to reach an age of three or four years before being slaughtered, the supply of beef would be increased 9,000,000,000 pounds and leather supplies augmented by 279,000,000 feet.

Canada must raise more cattle if she is to retain her present prosperity. In the West, especially, our farmers are "mining" the land instead of farming it and, unless they go into mixed farming, they will very soon impare the fertility of the soil. As a matter of fact, Professor Shaw, one of the experts engaged by a Chicago paper to investigate the conditions responsible for the high cost of living in Canada and the United States, estimates that Canada is losing $500,000,000 a year in soil fertility. Much of this might be saved by raising more cattle. This same corps of experts find that there had been a 33 1-3% advance in the cost of living in the past seven years. In their report, they submit a combination of causes for the increased cost of living, one of which is the decrease in the number of beef cattle in the two countries. Canada must produce more cattle.

AUSTRALIA'S TRADE.

Canada Secures Only Small Share.

Canadian business men are hoping that trade between Australia and Canada will be increased as a result of the Hon. G. E. Foster's visit. In a large measure business between thest two parts of the Empire has been disappointing. This is largely attributed to the poor steamship service between the two countries, coupled with a lack of appreciation of the opportunities of trade on the part of merchants and shippers in both countries.

The following are the figures of Canada's trade with Australia for the year ending March 31st last: