

The History of Canada's Export Trade in Animals and Animal Produce.

BY P. E. LIGHT.

It is of interest, especially to the older generation, to recall Canada's experience in undertaking a live meat trade, a venture which to-day is practically non-existent in so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, but which from 1890 to 1911 had an outlet for ninety per cent. of its total surplus in the British market.

Canada was years ago a heavy exporter of live cattle and sheep. In the year 1903 she exported to Great Britain 161,170 head of cattle and 93,528 head of sheep. During the succeeding years exports of live stock from the Dominion to Great Britain steadily declined until in 1913 our export to that outlet amounted to only 12,069 cattle. Fortunately at the later date, restrictions were removed between the United States and Canada on imports and exports of cattle and other meat animals, and from a total of 28,268 cattle exported to United States in 1913, Canada's trade developed into an export of 189,229 head of cattle in 1918. The heaviest exports to all countries were made in 1898, when Canada shipped 122,106 cattle to Great Britain, 87,905 head to United States and 2,997 to other countries, and in 1916 when the high tide of our exports was reached in our shipments of 1,752 cattle to Great Britain, 227,202 to United States points, and 12,581 to other countries. While the latter was apparently a considerable achievement it really meant that in the passage of seventeen years, Canada increased her export of cattle by only 26,000 head, and that only following the throwing open of the great market to the South.

The ten years period from 1903 to 1913 constitutes the time which extensive settlement in Western Canada was developing, during which railway building reached its maximum, during which internal industrial expansion was exploited almost to the extreme, and during which Canada's borrowings increased to huge amounts to make good the expenditures in various lines of enterprise. It was a period of construction rather than production during which we steadily traded upon our future in developing the facilities for future business. Our prosperity during this period was, in a large sense, of a fictitious nature, and in view of the huge constructive enterprises which were undertaken, we finally found ourselves in a position where internal consumption practically absorbed the live-stock production of our country.

Cause of Decline in Live-Stock Exports.

In the table following, showing live-stock exports, it is noticeable that the exportations declined from 1906 and 1907 until a low-water mark was reached in 1913. Several reasons may be advanced; the taking up of the ranges for wheat growing, the great storms of 1907, the changing from one market to another, the increased abattoir facilities and the increased local consumption in Canada influenced the situation. The more general adoption of mixed farming in Western Canada will supply an immense number of cattle and sheep, and effect a return in the West in favor of the Live-Stock Industry.

In 1914 we arrived at the critical period when after a time of too rapid apparent development we faced the problem of paying our debts out of actual production, or else suffer a steadily declining national credit in the financial markets of the world. In the crisis the live-stock industry responded magnificently, as the following table of values graphically shows.

In effect, animal produce contributed in value to the export trade of Canada during the period of the war a total of \$403,475,273.

The table appended indicates the ebb and flow of our export cattle trade from 1890 to 1918. Exports of Live Cattle from Canada to the Under-mentioned Countries from 1890 to 1918, inclusive.

	Great Britain	United States	Other countries	Totals
	No.	No.	No.	No.
1890.....	66,965	7,840	6,649	81,454
1891.....	107,689	2,763	7,309	117,761
1892.....	101,426	551	5,202	107,179
1893.....	99,904	402	6,918	107,224
1894.....	80,531	256	5,270	86,057
1895.....	85,863	882	7,057	93,802
1896.....	97,042	1,646	5,763	104,451
1897.....	120,063	35,998	5,308	161,369
1898.....	122,106	87,905	2,999	213,010
1899.....	115,476	92,834	3,537	211,847
1900.....	115,056	86,989	3,479	205,524
1901.....	119,050	46,244	3,985	169,279
1902.....	148,927	31,743	3,803	184,473
1903.....	161,170	10,432	5,178	176,780
1904.....	148,301	3,517	5,599	157,417
1905.....	159,078	3,696	4,328	167,102
1906.....	163,994	4,726	7,310	176,030
1907.....	149,340	8,184	4,617	162,141
1908.....	124,015	23,612	3,366	150,993
1909.....	143,661	16,130	3,154	162,945
1910.....	140,424	12,210	4,752	157,386
1911.....	113,795	7,576	3,552	124,923
1912.....	47,868	9,807	3,842	61,517
1913.....	12,069	28,268	3,959	44,296
1914.....	9,788	206,446	3,615	219,849
1915.....	—	183,672	2,252	185,924
1916.....	1,752	227,202	12,581	241,535
1917.....	—	164,169	1,967	166,136
1918.....	—	189,229	2,130	191,359

Some Adverse Conditions.

Promising as is the live-stock situation at its base, it is well to pay attention to certain adverse conditions

The accompanying article is the second of a series on the live-stock industry of Canada, written by P. E. Light, of the Markets Division, Live Stock Branch, Ottawa. Mr. Light here reviews the export trade since 1890, and points out adverse conditions which require rectifying of volume if exports of live stock is to be established. The percentage of steers of export quality and weight being marketed is small at present. The too prevalent use of scrub bulls is one reason given for our stock not being of higher quality. In next week's issue Mr. Light deals with our Live-Stock Resources and Opportunities.

of our live-stock industry, requiring immediate attention. The most serious condition is the lack of sufficient numbers of cattle of quality suitable for the rather critical markets of the United Kingdom. We would do well to bear in mind that the present trade in beef with importing countries is an emergency trade, and that the quality of our exports of beef will not meet the strict export requirements in filling contracts for permanent trade on a competitive market.

As an illustration of the lack of cattle of weights sufficient to make export beef, it is a fact that of the total cattle marketed at five leading stock yards in Canada during the year 1918, only 15 per cent. were of export weights, and only 12 per cent. of export weight and quality. Another condition is the tendency of late years, probably owing to the domestic demand for baby

Values of Export of Animals and Animal Produce.

	1915	1916	1917	1918
Eggs.....	\$ 965,640	\$ 2,618,871	\$ 3,480,911	\$ 3,283,935
Poultry.....	212,992	118,878	70,474	78,606
Bacon.....	11,811,825	25,710,767	43,011,439	58,035,440
Beef.....	1,988,489	5,994,983	5,750,435	13,426,823
Hams.....	2,652,917	1,379,560	771,830	2,160,120
Mutton.....	124,087	14,360	27,491	192,286
Pork.....	781,643	1,690,589	2,700,626	2,074,420
Live stock.....	14,930,992	19,171,748	14,575,174	22,528,799
Wool.....	1,359,741	1,497,684	2,595,488	7,152,496
Lard.....	305,933	2,980	284,483	528,786
Butter.....	639,625	1,018,769	2,640,536	2,042,470
Cheese.....	19,213,501	27,174,379	38,051,533	36,630,119
Totals.....	\$53,987,385	\$86,393,568	\$113,960,420	\$148,133,900

beef and light weights of cattle, to market cattle not only very young, but unfortunately extremely light, and without proper finish. This practice has greatly reduced the average tonnage and quality of cattle marketed in Canada during the past two years compared

Per cent. of above cattle of export weight, 15; per cent. of above cattle of export quality, 12; per cent. of above hogs of export quality, 86; per cent. of above lambs of export quality, 78; per cent. of above sheep of export quality, 52.

Receipts of Live Stock at Canadian Stock Yards, Year Ending December 31st, 1918, (Including Through Billed Stock).

	Cattle	Calves	Hogs	Sheep	Horses
Montreal (Pt. St. Charles).....	68,708	66,345	98,726	70,460	18,112
Montreal (East End).....	69,363	68,786	54,557	46,530	21,254
Toronto (Union Stock Yards).....	368,066	62,056	488,554	185,951	37,026
Winnipeg (St. Boniface).....	312,503	11,560	365,219	38,403	8,961
Edmonton.....	45,456	5,689	44,171	5,055	3,678
Calgary.....	162,045	—	139,675	—	5,154

with that of some five years back. During 1918, approximately 50 per cent. of the butcher steers marketed at public stock yards weighed under 1,000 pounds, these cattle graded about 60 per cent. good quality and the remainder were considered to be unfit for butchering, but to a large degree suitable for return to country points for further feeding. In addition to these butcher steers of light weights approximately twenty per cent. of the total marketing of cattle were classed as stockers weighing from four hundred and fifty to eight hundred pounds. Also the total numbers of stockers and feeders compared with the total receipts of cattle were very heavy. These light cattle may either be weighed up as stockers and feeders or, if butcher cattle are scarce, as butcher cattle. This being the case, the per cent. of light cattle in the total marketings may exceed the figures already given.

It will be noted that the hogs grade up exceedingly well. Without wishing to detract from this statement, it is true that one cause of the exceptionally high per cent. of select hogs was the keen demand and exceptionally favorable outlet for pork and pork products, and a consequent wide grading by the packers.

Light Weight Cattle.

The following table illustrates the predominance of light weights of cattle in our annual marketings, and substantiates the statements previously made regarding the quality of our cattle marketings.

Grading and Quality of Cattle Marketed at Public Stock Yards during the Year Ending December 31, 1918.

STEERS.		
Heavy finished.....	21,053	
Steers, good.....	75,681	
1,000-1,200, common.....	3,0063	
Steers, good.....	70,418	
700-1,000, common.....	50,634	
Heifers, good.....	38,489	
fair.....	26,440	
common.....	15,351	
Cows, good.....	75,904	
Common.....	85,729	
Bulls, good.....	8,959	
Common.....	27,674	
Canners and cutters.....	57,095	
Oxen.....	6,709	
Calves, veal.....	27,686	
Grass.....	13,532	
Stockers, good.....	98,978	
450-800, fair.....	64,675	
Feeders, good.....	33,754	
800-1,100, fair.....	25,827	
HOGS.		
Selects.....	803,622	
Heavies.....	18,449	
Lights.....	69,403	
Sows.....	30,458	
Stags.....	5,532	
LAMBS.		
Good.....	183,918	
Common.....	52,326	
SHEEP.		
Heavy.....	5,108	
Light.....	46,439	
Common.....	36,755	

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