

Notwithstanding the large importations of frozen mutton from Australasia and the River Platte, the prices for live sheep have been fully maintained, and the primest Down sheep have readily realised 20 cents per lb. In fact, the prospects for British and Canadian sheep raisers are better for 1890 than they have been for any time during the past ten years. In previous reports I have pointed out that, with care and attention, and the introduction of Down sheep into the Dominion, breeders there will find a profitable market for all the sheep which can be exported to Great Britain, despite the increase in the frozen mutton trade, and the present state of the market fully warrants my assertion. I have to note, during the past year, a novelty in the Canadian export trade, namely, the arrival here of a consignment of Canadian lambs. These were by no means of exceptional quality, but they arrived in splendid condition, and the mortality was very small indeed. These lambs were immediately snapped up by graziers, and will be kept as stores until next year. So profitable was the venture that arrangements are being made to extend the business considerably. This will be of great importance to the farmers in the Dominion, one of their difficulties having always been the risk of their getting flocks of sheep too large to carry over the winter. If, by the introduction of early maturing sheep, Canadian farmers could produce a lamb 60 lbs. weight to ship to this country in October, I am confident they would find the British markets far more profitable than those of the United States, which have hitherto been relied upon, and the result would be a great development of the export sheep trade. A breeder in England has just published a report of his lambs, which shows that his wether lambs, fed in the ordinary way in the fields, sold at £2 4s. 2d.—between \$11 and \$12 each—at from six to nine months old; probably the average did not exceed seven months. There is nothing to prevent Canadian farmers, with care and attention, obtaining equally satisfactory results.

I am glad to say that a large number of Canadians have visited this country during the year to purchase horses, and they have secured some of the finest specimens, more especially stallions of the Clydesdale, Shire and Hackney varieties, and I have rendered these gentlemen all the assistance in my power. In company with three of the best known breeders and judges of horse flesh in Great Britain, I visited the Toronto show, and my friends were of the opinion that no finer lot of draught horses (both imported and those bred in Canada) could be exhibited anywhere in Europe, with the exception of the Royal, the Glasgow, and the Highland shows. Much, however, remains to be done as regards saddle and harness horses, but judging from the Canadian press great interest is being taken in this subject, and good results must follow the discussions which are being carried on.

The number of horses in England in 1889 were 1,421,389, as compared with 1,432,845 in 1879 and 1,461,061 in 1869, showing a decrease in the twenty years of nearly forty thousand horses. The following information may be useful for reference:—

Exports from Great Britain.

Year.	No. of Horses.	Total Value.	Average Value per head.
1886.....	7,468	£416,091	£55 14 4
1887.....	9,822	561,798	57 4 0
1888.....	13,445	874,071	65 0 3
1889.....	14,267	984,000	68 19 6

Imported into Great Britain.

1886.....	11,026	£189,901
1887.....	11,641	197,679
1888.....	11,505	192,624
1889.....	13,859	275,401

The action of the British Government in giving Queen's prizes for thoroughbreds has had a most marked effect. Really first-class stallions have been secured for the various districts, and these horses have been prevented from leaving the country,