

	1876. No.	Value.
Horned cattle (the produce of Canada)	1,583	\$124,290
Horned cattle (not the produce of Canada)	1,226	115,350
Beef and mutton (the produce of Canada), cwt.	4,173	27,917
Beef and mutton (not the produce of Canada)	371	3,875
Preserved meats (the produce of Canada)	83,072
Sheep (the produce of Canada)	2,686	17,168
Total value		\$371,672

Let us now turn to what our neighbours the Americans are doing in this matter. The total amount of canned meats imported into Great Britain in 1875 was 19,234,480 lbs., costing \$2,846,659, or an average of about 14½ cents per lb. In 1876 this amount had increased to 31,456,320 lbs. costing \$4,244,510, or an average of about 13½ cents per lb. The proportion of this last year's import from the United States and Canada was 8,905,139 lbs., costing \$1,196,951 or an average of nearly 13 9-16 cents per lb.

In addition to this the quantities of fresh meats imported into Great Britain from the United States has been, in 1875, 3,920,000 lbs., costing \$469,246 or very nearly 12 cents per lb. In 1876 this had increased to 19,120,640 lbs., costing \$2,222,145 or about 11 5-8 per lb.

These figures are obtained from good authority; and, on looking into the matter from a Scotch point of view, and the Scotch are noted for that hard-headedness which delights in facts and figures, we find them substantially confirmed. During February of this year the American meat imports at Glasgow, the principal port of Scotland, were 4,650 quarters fresh beef, 500 sheep, 2,440 tierces salted beef, 700 barrels tongues and 20,500 cases of tinned (preserved) meats. In the previous month of January the fresh meat imported from the United States was 3,728 quarters and 620 sheep. The extracts already given show that the demand is still on the increase at a later date.

Now, turning to the market prices of live stock at a recent date at Chicago we find \$5.75 per 100 lbs. quoted for extra choice and the average quality about \$4.50 per 100 lbs., or 5½ and 4½ cents per lb. respectively. We have just seen from London quotations Canadian oxen quoted at 5s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per stone (of 8 lbs.) or about 8 to 8½ pence per lb. Surely this should give a fair gross profit from which to allow for cost of freight, etc.; and the difference becomes much greater if the animals can be slain here and conveyed across in suitable cuts in a proper state of preservation. This it has been already proved can be done.

Our exports to the United States the last two years were:

	1875.	No.	Value.
Horned Cattle	7,384		\$413,598
Sheep	145,474		\$478,589
	1876.	No.	Value.
Horned Cattle	15,676		\$340,067
Sheep	186,758		\$199,292

Can there be any doubt that many of these animals found their way to the English markets as *American* meat, and that the fact of the increase in quantity and comparative decrease in value shows that we have been content with a low price because we had not yet found the ways and means of disposing of them in the best market? However displeasing to our national pride such a conclusion may be we are forced to adopt it. But it need not remain so. Self-interest as well as pride in our national progress alike prompt us to take advantage of every means at our disposal to establish a name and reputation for *Canadian* meat and cattle in England as distinguished from *American*. That it can be done there is no doubt. That it will be done we have faith enough in Canadian enterprise and resources to prophesy.

Those entering on this trade must not forget that there is serious competition to face, and not only from Americans. Australia and New Zealand were first in the field, and in 1872 they exported to Great Britain 34,244,700 lbs. of fresh meats preserved in tins, but this maximum has gradually become diminished to 15,587,700 lbs. in 1876—that is, to less than half in four years. This is no doubt attributable to defective quality and want of care in selection and packing. The greatest care in this respect is clearly to the interest of Canadian exporters. One or two bad lots at first would go far to ruin our reputation as a market.

The trade is worth competing for and is certain to increase, for it is a well-known fact that in a population such as England's, where the great mass of the people is of the (so-called) working class, a very slight reduction in the price of any article of general consumption will largely increase the demand. Thus if we are enabled by increased facilities for transport to lessen cost, any slight reduction of profit will be compensated by the larger quantity consumed. As rents of farms and prices of labor in England exist at present, it is a pretty generally accepted fact, and one sufficiently supported by the records of the markets for many years past, that

meat cannot be produced there under 7d. sterling per lb. or about 14 cts.; so that if prices fall below that, owing to American or Canadian competition, a slight reduction of our exports would soon restore the English market to its normal condition and enable us to realize profits again.

With the immense tract of territory and rich pasture lands possessed by our Dominion, no practical farmer will dispute that cattle breeding, for an extensive market like England, can be made remunerative. That market can be brought near to us and made available by the appliances for transportation now in use by our American neighbors. There are three processes in use by them for the transport of fresh meat. One is, by means of ice to keep the temperature as low as the freezing point or lower. A second, the ice and salt process, and the forcing of ice-cold water through tubes placed near the meat, is somewhat more economical of ice and less costly. The third is the cool air process, by which a current of ice-cold air is made to circulate through the meat compartment. This last is preferred by many, and we have it on good authority that "the Guion Line has five vessels fitted up for the purpose; the National Line has six; the Inman Line four; the White Star five; the Cunard two; the Anchor two." Our Canadian steamship lines will readily adapt themselves to the wants of this carrying trade if sufficient freight is offered. England wants supplies of fresh meat, and is likely to require them to a still greater extent this summer in view of probable restrictions that may have to be imposed on the importation of live stock to prevent the spread of the cattle plague. Now, therefore, is the time to bring forward the superior quality of Canadian meat prominently: the notice of British consumers. By the courtesy of a large dealer here we have seen recent advices from some of his English correspondents which state that the *best* quality of meat only is wanted.

The permanence of this trade is placed almost beyond a doubt by the considerations already stated, but is further assured to us by the established free trade policy of the Home government. No restrictions in the form of protective duties will be placed by England on the importation of foreign meats. The bitter but salutary experience of the corn laws is not forgotten, and will prevent any attempt to check, by legislation, the food supply,—a course which could redound only to the enrichment of the already wealthy class of landowners. There is already some agitation produced by this new trade among English farmers and stock breeders. At a