

It may not be out of place to give first of all a short account of the history of the industry in its early stages, and the difficulties that were encountered in initiating and building up the trade in those countries, which have now a thoroughly organized and well established dead meat business. It may also not be out of place to give some idea of the financial conditions, under which the necessary works were established, and under which the dressed meat export trade generally has been encouraged and developed in other parts of the world.

Initial  
history in  
other  
countries

The first shipment of frozen meat from the Antipodes was sent from Australia in 1880, but owing to various causes, the principal being imperfect appliances and a general lack of knowledge of the business, the trade made no headway, and indeed the industry was actually abandoned for a time. New Zealand, however, entered the field some years later, and the history of the trade in that country shows a continuous and rapid increase. Refrigerated meats are now one of the principal exports and, as mentioned before, that trade has been the means of stimulating the production of large numbers of meat animals with beneficial results to the whole ranching and farming industry. Cattle increased two-thirds in the nine years from 1895 to 1904, while the flocks of sheep showed no decrease during that period under an annual slaughter of from 25 to 36 per cent. of the total number.

New  
Zealand

Profiting by her first mistakes, and taking advantage of the experience gained in New Zealand, Australia again turned her attention to the business, and developed the meat export trade with marked success. With the exception of fluctuations due to heavy losses of stock during years of drought, the trade has shown wonderful growth and has now assumed a splendid magnitude. As in the case of New Zealand it has been the means of encouraging the production of stock of greatly improved quality, and has consequently greatly benefited the pastoral and agricultural interests generally throughout Australia.

Growth and  
benefit

The commencement of the dressed meat export trade on the American continent, both in Argentina and in the United States, may be said to date as in Australia and New Zealand, from the introduction of improved methods of cold storage, and the application of refrigeration to the transportation of perishable products by land and sea.

The United  
States and  
the Argen-  
tine

We have pointed out that previous to the introduction of this method of handling and dealing with meat animals, the more distant meat producing countries had practically no outlet for their surplus stock. We have also shown that in the case of the countries nearer the principal meat markets of the world, and which are consequently able to carry on an export trade in live stock, the dead meat trade had to be established in opposition to, or carried on in conjunction with, the more primitive method. We have also traced the development of these systems, with the object of ascertaining which of the two has shown the more vigorous growth, and therefore which method is likely to prove of greater and more lasting benefit to the country adopting it.

The financial conditions under which the dressed meat industry was established in the countries referred to, differ very considerably; the manner in which the necessary capital was found to build works, provide machinery, and generally initiate and carry on the business, is of great importance, as bearing on the future control of the trade and as showing the manner in which the vast wealth created has been used and distributed, and to what extent a fair share has been secured to the producer. These

Financial  
Problems