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this end to cater for it to the utmost. We are rather surprised that our cattle growers look so much to London for their market, instead of shipping more direct to that great distributing centre of the industrial population, Manchester, and we trust it will not be long before regular shipments leave these shores for the cottonopolis of Great Britain.

In addition to shipping regularly to London, considerable quantities of frozen beef have found their way from our ports to China and South Africa, while it is well-known that for a long time past the American soldiers on service in the Philippine islands have been supplied with beef from Australia, their transports making regular trips for the purpose, while regular shipments have also gone to Honolulu. The last American transport to leave Queensland was the *Culgoa*, which took about 400 tons of beef—a comparatively small cargo—from the Eagle Farm Works during October, to be shortly followed by the *Glacier*, due at the same works this month.

At the present time most of the meat works throughout our colony are shut down, this being the off-season, and advantage is being taken to carry out very extensive alterations and additions to some of the establishments, but more particularly at the Queensland Meat Export and Agency Company's Eagle Farm Works, the Government surveyor's report certifying that during the past twelve months a sum of £25,000 has been expended in additions, etc. It is very evident this company intends to keep abreast of the times, not only in Brisbane, but at their Ross River Works at Townsville, where very extensive additions have recently been completed.

We also learn that the refrigerating machinery at the Gladstone Meat Works is being duplicated, and the slaughter yards are being fitted up with labor-saving appliances, so as to more satisfactorily cope with next season's operations.

Although the frozen meat industry has assumed large proportions during the past few years, the canned meat trade has not been allowed to lag. Already Queensland canned meats are to be found in all parts of

the world. London is a great market, South African merchants have been supplied with thousands of cases of meat of various assortments, and the British army authorities have contracted with Queensland firms for canned meats to nourish and sustain the Empire's soldiers who have been fighting in South Africa. China and Japan and the Philippines have also had fair shipments of our tinned beef, and in addition, they consume a quantity of salt barrelled beef, edible fat and beef extract, which can be produced in Queensland equal to anything in any part of the world.

What is now causing great anxiety is the continued dry weather we are experiencing, and the drought that has been raging so long in the back country, making it impossible to secure a sufficient supply of fat cattle suitable for freezing at reasonable prices. It is to be hoped rain will soon come, and so assist us to produce stock which are absolutely necessary if this great Queensland industry is to be kept going, and to do this profitably, prices for good cattle, fit for export, will have to recede, otherwise the markets made cannot be maintained, and the loss of them would prove a national calamity.

VENEZUELA.—The recent earthquake at Caracas emphasized the adaptability of American style of buildings to withstand even an unusually severe earthquake. At Macuto, the Newport of Venezuela, the Venezuelan Herald reports that almost every building was destroyed except the three American frame houses built last year for General Andrade, Dr. Alberto Smith, and General Bello Rodriguez. At Caracas most of the public buildings belonging to the Government were severely injured and four churches were ruined. Altogether 73 houses were totally destroyed, the roofs of 380 collapsed, and 430 others were seriously damaged. The style of building in vogue in Venezuela is not adapted to a country where earthquakes are as frequent as in the valley of Caracas. The walls are thick and strong, but the roofs are far too heavy, weighing from 100 to 250 lbs. per square yard. These

are lodged on heavy rafters and fall instantly when such sharp shocks as those of October 29 occur. There should be a good sale to the Government, and the wealthier and more intelligent classes for light roofing materials, such as shingles, metallic roofing, roofing paper, etc., and for frame buildings of the type introduced by ex-President Andrade.

INDIA.—United States Consul Patterson, of Calcutta, suggests that for information respecting the sale of agricultural implements in that part of India contiguous to Calcutta, correspondence should be had with the following firms, all located at Calcutta: Messrs. T. E. Thomson & Co., Limited; Jessop & Co., Limited; W. Leslie & Co.

It is but a short time since that electricity, as a motive power, was unknown in India. However, electricity is now beginning to be extensively used in Calcutta for various purposes, such as lighting, for fans, to take the place of punkas that were pulled by coolies, for driving machinery, etc. Consul Patterson advises correspondence with Messrs. Kilburn & Co., of Calcutta, who have an electrical plant, and are furnishing electricity and electrical machinery and goods; also, with the following-named firms in Calcutta, who are dealers in such machinery and goods, viz., Osler & Co., Octavius Steel & Co., and the Calcutta General Electric Co. All machinery is now entered duty free in India, but there is a duty of five per cent. ad valorem on goods. There is a direct line of steamships between New York and Calcutta, but a cheaper freight on machinery and goods not required for immediate use would be by sailing vessels via the Cape.

GUATEMALA.—Guatemala offers a market for hosiery, haberdashery, etc. At present it is well nigh impossible to find a shirt, collar or cuff of American make on sale in Guatemala. England, France and Germany now have the upper hand in that market, simply because salesmen from those countries are on the ground with a full line of samples, which are exhibited in permanently

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