

The depression in agriculture here still continues, although it is not so acute as in past years, except in those districts remote from railways and the large centres of population. A large quantity of land during the last decade has gone out of occupation, but the returns this year show an increase under the heading of land rented, of 106,809 acres, the extent of cultivated land returned under the same heading this year being 27,881,132 acres, as against 27,774,323 acres in 1888, and it is stated that there is a more hopeful tone generally prevailing amongst farmers. The increase in the area under cultivation is chiefly in permanent pasture, the extension in Great Britain being given as 119,600 acres over 1888. Barley would appear to be in England a far better paying crop than wheat, and shows an increase of 35,969 acres over the extent sown in 1888, the area in 1889 being 2,121,530 acres. The relative proportions of the whole area of cultivated land in Great Britain is this year 48.5 per cent. in the permanent pasture, 24.7 per cent. under corn crops, and 10.1 per cent. under green crops; the remainder being under clover, flax, hops, small fruit and fallow land. I have in previous reports urged the extension of the trade in dairy cows with this country. The returns show that the cows and heifers in milk or in calf have diminished in number in 1889 by 16,805. Some interesting statistics have recently been published as regards the quantity of milk consumed in Great Britain, and it may be of interest to quote them. It is reckoned that the quantity of milk produced in England amounts to 670 millions of gallons per annum, of the value of twenty-one millions sterling, or \$105,000,000.

The value of the milk yield in France is stated to be £48,000,000. There is a decrease, as I have pointed out, in the number of dairy cattle in England; and in view of the prohibition of the entry of dairy stock from the continent, including Holland, which was formerly a great source of supply to the London dairymen, I cannot help thinking that it is a branch of Canadian export trade which should receive far more attention than it does at present. The class of stock and the way to ship it I need not again refer to, as these points have been fully gone into in my previous reports. In the dairy districts milch cows have been unusually scarce. Cows of fair character could not be obtained for less than £21—\$105, and superior shorthorn grade cows, with good substance and show for milk, were worth £30, or \$150 each.

An estimate just made states that for every thousand living cattle in the United Kingdom, the British farmer puts yearly into the market sixty-seven tons of beef or veal; for every thousand living sheep, twelve and a-half tons of mutton or lamb, and for every thousand living pigs, seventy tons of pork, bacon, or hams. On this basis the home meat crop would be represented this year by 688,000 tons of beef, 362,000 tons of mutton, and 265,000 tons of pig meat; in all, 1,315,000 tons. Approximately, out of every 100 pounds of butcher's meat consumed in the United Kingdom, nearly seventy-four pounds are produced in the British Isles, nineteen pounds are imported as dead meat and seven pounds imported alive, so that 35 per cent. of the demand has to be obtained from abroad.

The Board of Trade returns for the year ending December 31st, 1889, show an enormous increase in the numbers of live cattle which have been imported from all countries, proving that, notwithstanding the facilities that are offered for transporting dead meat, more attention has been given to the trade in live animals. The imports of oxen, cows and calves, which in 1888 numbered 377,088 head, increased to 555,221 in 1889. These figures are pregnant with interest to Canadians, in view of the immense advantage they possess in having free entry to the market here. The imports from Canada, increased from 61,144 head in 1888 to 84,588 head in 1889, and of course, in these figures are not included the large numbers of ranche and other cattle, which were shipped *via* United States ports, classified as imports from the United States and subjected to the slaughtering clauses of the Duke of Richmond's Cattle Bill on their arrival at British ports. The great increase, however, is from the United States, which sent 294,423 head in 1889 as against 143,495 in 1888.

In the sheep trade a great decrease is shown. Whilst there were 956,210 head imported alive from all countries in 1888, the number decreased to 178,058 this year.