

Tuberculosis.—The examination of all carcasses of animals slaughtered at meat-export slaughter-houses and abattoirs again shows a slight reduction in the percentage found affected with tuberculosis in any degree, as indicated by decreases in the following classes of stock: Cows, 0·07 per cent.; bullocks and heifers, 0·70 per cent.; and swine, 0·98 per cent. Bulls show an increase of 0·13 per cent. on the previous year's figures. While these figures are no doubt satisfactory so far as the examination of slaughtered stock is concerned, the condemnation of cattle in the field by Stock Inspectors does not appear to indicate a corresponding reduction, as the condemnations have increased from 2,914 to 3,261. Some of this increase may be accounted for by a greater degree of activity on the part of the field staff, but after giving the present methods a good trial it would appear that this disease can never be eradicated or even reduced to a minimum by the present method, whilst the demand for increased compensation calls for an early review of the whole position. I am of opinion that if we were to give some inducement to owners to have their animals subjected to the tuberculin test by increasing the amount of compensation payable only for cattle condemned as a result of that test, some permanent good would follow, and I trust that consideration will be given to proposals to more effectively battle with this disease in the future.

Actinomycosis.—This disease has again been responsible for a number of condemnations in the field, especially in the Auckland and the Otago-Southland districts, where the proportion of animals condemned is exceptionally high. The condemnations for actinomycosis were as follows: Auckland District, 158; Wellington District, 102; Canterbury District, 59; Otago District, 135.

Cattle-tick.—The control of the tick found affecting cattle in the North Auckland district has been taken well in hand. Regulations were gazetted during the year, and although they were not put wholly into operation, owing to dipping facilities not being available in the tick-infested districts, the provisions regarding the removal of stock to clean country were put into operation, and it is hoped to have the regulations fully carried out before next season. The dip erected at Oakleigh (Whangarei) proved quite satisfactory, and, with a few minor alterations to the plan, has been adopted as the standard for erection by local bodies or committees appointed throughout the district. Sites for the erection of dips have been approved in a number of instances, applications for the Government subsidy of pound for pound up to £150 have been granted, and it is anticipated that a number of the dips will soon be erected and ready to receive cattle for dipping.

LIVE-STOCK STATISTICS.

Sheep.—The enumeration of sheep in the Dominion as at 30th April, 1919, showed a decrease of 709,748 when compared with the previous year, but this was not unexpected, as the previous year's increase was partly accounted for by delayed slaughtering owing to the backward season, and the 1918 lambing had shown a material reduction. Last year's figures, however, were still in advance of all previous years' returns with the exception of 1918. The following table shows the number of sheep in the Dominion for the stated years:—

Year.	Stud and Flock Rams (Two-tooth and over).	Breeding-ewes.	Other Sheep.	Lambs.	Total.
1913	313,690	12,521,036	4,371,257	6,985,827	24,191,810
1914	321,869	12,920,176	4,377,936	7,178,782	24,798,763
1915	315,251	12,615,341	4,625,681	7,318,148	24,901,421
1916	316,131	12,892,767	4,682,298	6,896,954	24,788,150
1917	329,230	13,260,169	4,530,471	7,150,516	25,270,386
1918	325,111	13,022,034	5,295,269	7,895,888	26,538,302
1919	321,304	12,341,900	5,734,029	7,431,321	25,828,584

The present year's figures are not, at time of writing, compiled, but in the face of the increased slaughterings shown, and the decrease in the estimated lambing-percentage, a reduction on last year's figures must be looked for.

Cattle.—The statistics collected in January, 1919, again show a satisfactory increase over the previous year in both dairy cows and other cattle. The following table shows the numbers of the respective classes:—

Year.	Bulls (all Ages).	Dairy Cows.	Other Cattle.	Total.
1908	30,170	591,617	1,151,539	1,773,326
1911	40,670	633,733	1,345,568	2,020,171
1916	50,858	750,323	1,616,310	2,417,491
1917	49,930	777,439	1,747,861	2,575,230
1918	51,935	793,215	2,024,315	2,869,465
1919	56,706	826,135	2,152,637	3,035,478

Swine.—I have again to record a marked reduction in the number of swine in the Dominion as revealed in the last enumeration. The figures for the last five years are as follows: 1911, 348,754; 1916, 297,501; 1917, 283,770; 1918, 258,694; 1919, 235,347

Consequent on the high prices ruling for bacon, hams, and pork the breeding of pigs is receiving more attention this season than for some few years past, but on account of the utilization of the whole of the by-products of milk through the increase in cheese-factories and the dried-milk industry a new system of feeding becomes imperative before any permanent improvement can be possible. Advice on the growing of suitable forage crops and the system of feeding is being given by the Division.