

The number of pigs in the Dominion as revealed in the 1933 enumeration was 591,582, being an increase of 78,166 on the previous year's figures. Horses have continued to show a decline, the number being 276,897, a reduction of 4,097.

SLAUGHTER OF STOCK.

The numbers of sheep and lambs slaughtered show a decrease on last year's figures. The total number of stock slaughtered at registered premises were: Sheep, 2,867,245; lambs, 8,726,390; cattle, 475,149; calves, 945,853; swine, 744,569. The following table shows the stock slaughtered during the past year at freezing-works only, the previous year's figures being shown for comparison:—

Stock.	Year ended 31st March, 1934.	Year ended 31st March, 1933.	Increase.	Decrease.
Cattle	254,201	197,218	56,983	..
Calves	904,717	541,668	363,049	..
Sheep	1,972,678	2,561,306	..	588,628
Lambs	8,551,838	9,463,846	..	912,008
Swine	532,972	347,998	184,974	..

For further purposes of comparison the following table is given, showing the killings of sheep and lambs at meat-export slaughterhouses over four periods, 1st October to 31st March in each year, as indicative of the slaughterings from the beginning of each season to 31st March:—

Stock.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.
Sheep	1,671,493	2,614,378	1,649,363	1,293,617
Lambs	5,531,021	5,822,728	6,433,741	6,030,575

These figures show a decrease of 403,166 lambs and one of 355,746 sheep compared with the same period last year.

Following are the numbers of each class of animal slaughtered under direct inspection during the year ended 31st March, 1934: Cattle, 408,999; calves, 974,360; sheep, 2,640,924; lambs, 8,698,347; swine, 686,787.

The following table indicates the respective classes of premises at which these animals were slaughtered:—

Stock.	Abattoirs.	Meat-export Slaughterhouses.	Bacon-factories.
Cattle	154,798	254,201	..
Calves	69,643	904,717	..
Sheep	668,246	1,972,678	..
Lambs	146,509	8,551,836	..
Swine	117,931	532,972	35,884

Stock slaughtered at ordinary slaughterhouses during the year ended 31st March, 1934, was as follows: Cattle, 66,150; calves, 1,493; sheep, 226,321; lambs, 28,043; swine, 24,342. Carcasses of pork killed and dressed by farmers and sent into butchers' shops and small factories and examined by departmental officers numbered 33,440. In connection with the animals shown in the above tables as slaughtered at meat-export slaughterhouses, the following numbers are returned as having gone into consumption within the Dominion: Cattle, 12,497; calves, 2,897; sheep, 132,095; lambs, 83,907; swine, 15,393.

COMPENSATION PAID FOR STOCK AND MEAT CONDEMNED.

Compensation to the amount of £6,832 was paid out during the year for animals condemned in the field for disease under the provisions of the Stock Act, and £12,488 for carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned for disease on examination at the time of slaughter at abattoirs, meat-export slaughterhouses, &c., under the provisions of the Slaughtering and Inspection Act.

IMPORTATION OF STOCK FROM ABROAD.

The following imported animals were placed in quarantine during the year for the respective periods required: Horses, nil; cattle, 8; sheep, 16; swine, 13; dogs, 61.

EXPORTATION OF STUD STOCK.

During the year under review the following stud stock was exported: Sheep, 1,774; cattle, 24; swine, 12; horses, 60 (draught). There was the usual movement of racehorses to and from Australia.